

ADEPT President's Awards 2024

Entry form

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Award category Shaping Places for People

Project Title Bath and North East Somerset Council Liveable Neighbourhoods

Local authority entrant Bath and North East Somerset Council

Partner/s if applicable AECOM

Headline summary (150 characters max.)

Bath and North East Somerset Council and AECOM collaboration to improve fifteen neighbourhoods as part of the Liveable Neighbourhood Programme.

Please note we need at least one supporting image per award submission. Upload your image/s below.







Shaping places for people: How was this project an innovative response to a significant concern? (150 words max.)

A Climate and Ecological Emergency was announced by B&NES in 2019. B&NES residents have expressed concerns in relation to air quality, access to safe active travel routes and the dominance of motorised vehicle traffic in their neighbourhoods. B&NES and AECOM utilised a range of techniques to understand the challenges faced by residents in the chosen LN areas. Our innovative co-design approach overcame the barriers often experienced with traditional forms of engagement, by closely involving the local communities during the early stages of the project and promoted inclusive representation, allowing those affected by the changes to be involved and heard.

Through focused facilitation, residents were empowered to develop local visions, which helped overcome barriers they faced daily. By collaborating with residents in this way, the LN team was able to prioritise creative, bespoke solutions for the respective communities and help to address the varying needs of the residents that live there.

Shaping places for people: Please give evidence of the quality of outcomes obtained from the project (for example improved/more efficient services, increased inclusivity for residents, futureproofing the service). (150 words max.)

The ETRO schemes have benefited the communities in various ways, a key benefit being the increase in active travel through the introduction of modal filters, seeing walking and cycling up in both Queen Charlton and Southlands up by 300% and 60-80% respectively. In addition to this, daily vehicle movements have decreased by 85%. Air monitoring performed in Southlands and Church Street demonstrates reductions between 6% and 21% of average nitrogen dioxide levels around the ETRO schemes.

The new spaces created by the through-traffic restrictions were well received with between, with 91% and 81% of residents giving positive feedback on traffic reduction, as well as walking and cycling safety. A local resident endorsed the scheme, saying "The scheme has significantly improved safety especially for young children which is the main concern for my grandchildren who are not now afraid to cycle or walk along a previously narrow and dangerous road".

Shaping places for people: Please give evidence of the level of collaboration between place and people services (both within the council and with external partners/providers). (150 words max.)

The three-year project involved multiple teams and partner organizations, fostering a unified culture of collaboration. B&NES and AECOM worked as one team, supporting each other across all levels and tasks. During stakeholder and public engagement phases, AECOM's Stakeholders Engagement team closely collaborated with B&NES's Behaviour Change and Communications teams, organizing 30 events across the authority area. Technical teams from both organizations provided expertise, including simplified drawings and answering technical inquiries at events.

During the ETRO implementation phase, AECOM's Engineers worked jointly with B&NES's implementation team and closely with contractors to ensure efficient and minimally disruptive work for residents. Both organizations' Behaviour Change, Stakeholders Engagement, and Communication teams supported the public, addressing concerns and ensuring all voices were heard during temporary works. This collective effort aimed to address residents' travel needs and engage with those who supported or were concerned about the interventions, prioritizing effective communication and stakeholder involvement.

Shaping places for people: Please give evidence of the level of buy-in to the project or its goals from members of the local community, health and social care and external organisations. (150 words max.)

In 2022 Co design workshops were conducted in fifteen LN areas to empower residents, foster trust, and encourage ownership of local visions for their communities. Those who attended the co-design workshops were invited to a follow-up exhibition to review the LN vision for their community, voice their opinions, and select their preferred measures. AECOM led the scheme design, collaborating with B&NES and Volker (the scheme contractor) ensuring creative designs and challenging traditional engineering solutions.

With the aid of Sustrans, the team engaged with emergency services, public services, local schools, businesses, resident associations, and local social groups (e.g. Needles and Natter) throughout the process encouraging feedback to ensure designs positively impacted all stakeholders. This approach aimed to empower residents by prioritising their input and considering the diverse needs of the community. In person events were attended by an average of 14 people and had an average survey response of 150.

Shaping places for people: Please give evidence of the use or consideration of new sources of investment to fund projects. (150 words max.)

To help ensure delivery of the LNs and supporting the management of limited resources, AECOM worked with officers from B&NES Regeneration Team, who were delivering a 'Love Our High Street' programme. Through wider project collaboration at an early stage, we were able to understand the requirements of each project and identify opportunities which would add value to the local community and remove duplication of work and potentially abortive investment and unnecessary costs ultimately delivering more for less.

Project cooperation also helped with communication at a local level and ensure that there was effort to work together with the community. By combining project resources, it helped create opportunities for local

businesses to get involved and take ownership of small community assets through sponsorship and maintenance. Together, the projects targeted three areas, which were Moorland Road High Street, Weston High Street and Mount Road local centre.

All categories: please add anything else that supports your award entry

Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) Council and AECOM collaborated to improve fifteen neighbourhoods within the authority as part of the Liveable Neighbourhood (LN) Programme. The aim is to encourage safe, active and more sustainable forms of travel such as walking, wheeling and cycling, as well as contribute to the ambitious 2030 Net Zero target for the region. The approach to achieve this was through close engagement with communities at a local level, understanding what barriers they faced and what opportunities could be seized, through a series of co-design workshops.

Over a three-year relationship we have delivered: co-design across fifteen areas, prioritisation of measures, three Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) trials on site made permanent (Queen Charlton, Church Street and Southlands) with further ETRO trails to be implemented in Spring 2024, development of a Full Business Case to secure funding from the Combined Authority, and delivery of 7 RPZs.

A key comment sought in all schemes so far is safety for pedestrians and cyclists. In Church Street, 76% of parents felt the safety of pedestrians had improved, and 53% on Southlands. Below are some comments received from residents at Queen Charlton, Southlands and Church Street.

“The scheme has significantly improved safety especially for young children which is the main concern for my grandchildren who are not now afraid to cycle or walk along a previously narrow and dangerous road.”

– Queen Charlton Comment

“Southlands feels like a safer road to walk and drive and cycle on since the scheme. It is quieter and easier to cross the road without worrying about traffic.” – Southlands Comment

“Southlands acts a corridor between 2 schools, has access points all along it to the recreational ground and has lots of families that live along it. Reducing the through traffic, which has also slowed the traffic down has been brilliant and makes it feel much safer, especially when walking or cycling with children.” – Southlands Comment

“As a cyclist the change to Church Street has been incredible. My mum didn’t want me to cycle on the road before because it was so dangerous. Now I cycle to and from school every day.” “Church Street is now a safe environment where pedestrians and cyclists can move freely, and vehicles drive safely and cautiously.” – Church Street Comment

“I am in favour of anything that improves walking and cycling. My 6-year-old and I can now cycle down Church Street without worrying about motor traffic. We now use this traffic-free road for accessing the two tunnels cycle way.” – Church Street Comment