

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 12th JANUARY 2021

Agenda item 9: Forward Plan

1. In the Council's [Strategic Plan](#) the Vision of the Council is set out as :

“to develop an inclusive community so that Abingdon is the place where everyone wants to live and where the wellbeing of residents is prioritised. In developing this community the town will be one which is environmentally sustainable, vibrant, resilient and safe.” The document goes on to detail the Council's values and then the key objectives as:

- (1) To respond effectively and speedily to the climate emergency.
- (2) To develop a resilient, sustainable town which will provide a home for residents now and in the future.
- (3) To manage the Council's assets efficiently and effectively to meet for the needs of the community now and in the future.
- (4) To work with community partners to support those who are vulnerable and in need and to create opportunities to increase social inclusivity.”

2. Each Committee has been considering how it can deliver on its vision and the key objectives. The approach of each committee has been slightly different but the objective the same: that we have an action plan for the next five years. The committees have considered existing initiatives and projects within its terms of reference.

3. At the committee meeting on 3rd November 2020 six projects and areas of development were agreed and a lead member allocated to each. It is critical at this point that all items in the forward plan are funded, certainly those items for 2021/22 and the table below shows the projects, lead member and funding:

Project	Lead member	Funding requirement
Youth strategy	Cllr Samantha Bowring	Budget 21/22 £30,000 bid
Review of flag policy	Cllr Charlie Birks	No budgetary implications
Completion and implementation of introducing environmentally friendly measures to address the climate emergency in relation to Market Place events.	Cllr Alex Greenaway and Cllr Andrew Coveney	No budget required, any implications to be contained within existing budgets
Completion of communications review including new website	Cllr Andrew Coveney	Budget saving 21/22: £2,563

Planning for Platinum Jubilee scheduled for 2022	Cllr Samantha Bowring	Will require funding during 2021/22. Two areas to consider: 1 Events to celebrate the Jubilee; 2 Suggested capital item: bandstand. Need to investigate grants.
Review of Grants Policy	Cllr Andrew Foulsham	No budgetary implications from policy review per se

4. The Community Services line of the Forward Plan may be accessed by clicking [here](#). This is a dynamic document and will be updated continually as projects are scoped, developed and delivered. At each future meeting the committee will review its plans to monitor progress and amend as circumstances and priorities change. In this regard we will consider how best the Forward Plan can be presented so that progress is easy to track.
5. The oversight of the process is the responsibility of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and they will make a recommendation to the Council, who will agree the document. At this stage the Finance and General Purposes Committee will be concentrating on the following:
 - (a) scrutinising how the projects in the Forward Plan meet the council's vision and key objectives, ensuring that expenditure is commensurate with impact;
 - (b) ensuring that the overall scheduling of projects is reasonable and achievable having due regard to the council's resources and capabilities e.g. that the council does not attempt to take on too many projects at the same time with the result that they cannot be achieved;
 - (c) ensuring that the budgetary implications of projects are clear and understood and that where necessary additional budgetary provision is made.
6. The Committee is requested to consider this report and the Forward Plan and make a recommendation to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Nigel Warner
Town Clerk
7th January 2021