

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Wednesday 13th JANUARY 2021

Agenda item 11: 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 ambitious, achievable and realistic action plan for the next five years. As part of this process the committees have considered existing initiatives and projects within its terms of reference.

3. There is further work to undertake with a number of colleagues and Members in relation to some parts of the Forward Plan and therefore Members are for now requested to review the latest version in the SharePoint. When this work has been completed, ahead of the meeting, Members will be informed and the latest version will be uploaded to the website.

4. The Forward Plan is a dynamic document and will be updated continually as projects are scoped, developed and delivered. At each committee will continually 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 Forward Plan 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.

6. At this stage the Finance and General Purposes Committee needs to concentrate on the following:
 - (a) scrutinising how the projects suggested for inclusion 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.

7. The Committee is requested to consider this report and the Forward Plan and make a recommendation on its adoption to the Town Council.

Nigel Warner
Town Clerk
8th January 2021