



ABINGDON-ON-THAMES TOWN COUNCIL

Nigel E. Warner, M.A.(Oxon)
Town Clerk
Telephone: (01235) 522642
Facsimile: (01235) 533112
Email: enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk
Website: www.abingdon.gov.uk

Royse Court,
Bridge Street,
Abingdon-on-Thames.
OX14 3HU

13th November 2019

To: All Members of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

Cllr Samantha Bowring	Chair
Cllr Jim Halliday	Vice-Chair, Chair Amenities & Recreation Cttee
Cllr Gabby Barody	
Cllr Margaret Crick	Chair, Guildhall Cttee
Cllr Eric de la Harpe	
Cllr Neil Fawcett	Chair, Community Services Cttee
Cllr Andy Foulsham	
Cllr Jeanette Halliday	Chair, Planning, Highways & Consultations Cttee
Cllr Patrick Lonergan	Chair, County Hall Museum Management Cttee
Cllr Ulrike Rowbottom	
Cllr Charlie Birks	Mayor (ex-officio)

To: All Other Members for Information

Dear Member

Your attendance is requested at a Special Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to be held on Monday 18th November 2019 at 7.00pm in the Royse Room, the Guildhall, Abingdon-on-Thames.

Should any Member be unable to attend and wish to send a substitute to the meeting, they should inform me at:
nigel.warner@abingdon.gov.uk and cc enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk

This meeting is followed by a meeting of the Full Council and therefore all Members of the Council, including those who are not members of this committee, are invited to attend this committee meeting.

Yours sincerely

N E Warner
Town Clerk

A G E N D A

SECTION I (Open to the Public Including the Press)

1 **Apologies**

To receive any apologies for absence.

2 **Declarations of interest**

To receive any declarations of interest from Members in relation to any items to be considered at the meeting in accordance with the Local Code of Conduct.

3 **Statements and Questions from the Public**

To receive any statements and questions; these should be submitted in writing to the Town Clerk no later than 7pm on Saturday 16th September 2019. This may either be by letter to the address above or by e-mail to enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk, with a copy to nigel.warner@abingdon.gov.uk.

4 **Council's Strategic Plan 2019-23**

To receive and consider the report of the Town Clerk in relation to the above (attached pages 3-4).

The law allows members of the public and press to record meetings of the Council and its committees. Should you wish to record at any meeting which is open to the public it is requested that you inform the Town Clerk of your intention to film or record before the day of the meeting, by emailing enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk or telephoning 01235 522642.

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

18th NOVEMBER 2019

REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

Agenda item 4: Council's Strategic Plan 2019-23

This meeting has been convened to consider the Strategic Plan for the period from 2019 to 2023. This was drafted by the Leader of the Council, Cllr Samantha Bowring, and the Town Clerk to reflect the priorities of the Council elected in May 2019, the Strategy Day and subsequent discussions. The document has received initial consideration by the ruling Liberal Democrat Group at a group meeting and has been circulated to all members. The current status of the document is that it has been sent to all members for comment and then a further draft will be sent to members.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

As part of this work I was requested to produce a short report in relation to the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan. This report will be circulated separately. The production of this Plan is key to delivering the Council's objectives as set out in the Strategic Plan. It is essential to Key Objective 2 "to develop a resilient, sustainable town which would provide a home for residents now and in the future". Achieving this objective would require a much higher engagement and involvement in the planning process and the Plan is the mechanism through which this needs to take place.

The report sets out a recommended budget requirement for the plan as follows:

- 2020/21 – Gross Budget £50,000 less sums remaining from the Community Led Plan process £11,000, less grants £11,000 = net budget requirement £28,000
- 2021/22 - £50,000 less grants £8,000 = net budget requirement £42,000
- 2022/23 onwards – (at least) £30,000

The above budget is a reasonable budget in order to deliver the Plan. As part of this process the requirements for years two and three would be established and will depend on the scope of the plan and the way in which the plan is undertaken.

Recommendations

1. That the Council agrees in principle to undertake a Neighbourhood Development Plan for Abingdon and include sums in the budget as detailed above, and instruct your officers accordingly.
2. To approve the Strategic Plan 2019/23 as circulated to members.

Note that under the Council's terms of reference both these matters must be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee ahead of their consideration and resolution by the Town Council. However in discussion with the Leader, the Committee is encouraged to conclude its deliberations in a timely manner so that the full Council may then debate and discuss matters in more detail, noting in particular that the Strategic Plan may be amended by the Town Council.

Nigel Warner
Town Clerk
13th November 2019.