

## STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

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**Date:** Monday 12 June 2023

**Title:** **Committee Objectives and Work Programme for the Municipal Year**

**Contact Officer:** Town Clerk/CEO – Sharon Groth

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### BACKGROUND

The purpose of this report is to consider this Committee's objectives/priorities. This will enable the Town Clerk and her Officers to draw up a manageable programme of works, which will ensure the necessary resources are available and can be deployed appropriately.

She has also taken the opportunity to update Councillors on the Open Spaces Strategy Action Plan for areas under the responsibility of this Committee.

### CURRENT SITUATION

There are several projects where funding has been accumulated over numerous years with funding set aside within the Council's Earmarked Reserve – Infrastructure (a/c 369). In particular:

Welch Way Planters	The Council has been putting £2,000 aside each year for 5 years in order to install a new concrete planter in 2025.
Defibrillator	Within the revenue budget there is an expenditure code 4166/402 for defibrillator expenditure – and unspent budget is transferred over into the EMR in order to cover off future replacements.
Bus Shelters	Similar to the above, any unspent budget from bus shelter maintenance a/c 4035/402 is transferred into the Infrastructure EMR.
Bins	Similar to the above, any unspent budget from contract clean a/c 4017/402 is transferred into the Infrastructure EMR.
Bins/Benches	Within the Open Spaces Strategy IS5 – an audit has been carried out on the state of bins, benches etc. Officers need to prioritise and draw up a replacement programme – this will be funded through the Rolling Capital Fund EMR a/c 315 – capital code 4931/800.

Christmas Lights Display	The Council is in a 3 year contract for the installation of Christmas Lights – 2023 being year 3. Current years budget is £44,000.
Children & Young People	A budget of £40,000 is set aside to provide grants to local organisations supporting children and young people in the town.

## OPEN SPACES STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

Appendix A provides an extract from the adopted OSS relating to this Committees responsibilities.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make about its facilities and services it operates.

## RISK

In decision making Councillors should consider any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

When considering its priorities, the committee should be mindful of all resources – financial as well as human resources – and the competing demands from other Committees. There needs to be a clear programme of works to ensure that the council is realistic in what it can achieve in the next 12 months. Failure to have a plan could result in wasted resources and undeliverable projects.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications are detailed above.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to note the report and consider the Committees objectives/priorities for the coming municipal year.