

## **STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

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**Date:** Monday, 18 September 2023

**Title:** Town Centre Partnership

**Contact Officer:** Town Clerk

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### **Background**

In circa 2007/08 there was a Witney Town Centre Forum which was set up for the purposes of dealing with the closure of the Welch Way Car Park (which was), to make way for the building of Marriotts Walk Shopping Centre.

Given the fact that the High Street and Market Square is undergoing some major changes for delivery by Spring 2025, Officers from the District Council approached the Town Clerk with a view to reforming a forum in order to work collaboratively on various projects and events.

The purpose of the partnership will be to bring together representatives from the public, private and third sectors who have a common goal to help create a vibrant town centre where people want to live, work, shop and spend their leisure time.

### **Current Situation**

The initial meeting of the Town Centre Partnership is scheduled for Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September and Emma Phillips, the District Council's Market Towns Officer has contacted various groups in order to start trying to establish the objectives of the group.

Members are therefore given this opportunity to feed back to the Town Clerk so that she can present these at the meeting.

Below are some links to other town centre partnerships to give Councillors ideas on what they set out to do.

<https://www.chippenham.gov.uk/chippenham-town-centre-partnership-board/>

<https://www.sevenoakspartnership.org/>

<https://www.newmaldenpartnership.com/>

### **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 with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

### **Risk**

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

As an invited stakeholder to the town centre partnership should not create any additional risks to the Council at this stage.

### **Financial implications**

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report, apart from free use of the Corn Exchange for the meeting scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> September. There may be some resource implications if the Council Officers are to play an integral role in administering the partnership – but this is yet to be established.

### **Recommendation**

Members are invited to note the report and consider the objectives the Council would like to put forward to the Witney Town Centre Partnership.