

POLICY, GOVERNANCE & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 10 June 2024

Title: Committee Objectives & Work Programme for the Municipal Year

Contact Officer: Town Clerk - Sharon Groth

Background

The purpose of this report is to update Members on this Committee's objectives/priorities in relation to funding and legal aspects of projects as well as the review and adoption of policies and strategies as part of its governance.

The Town Clerk 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

Members are referred to the attached appendices where this Committee's projects are detailed in the following categories: completed; in progress; preparation pool/part or unfunded; s106 projects; along with an update on the Open Spaces Strategy objectives from the work programme 2021.

The Council has several large and complex projects in progress, along with some further significant projects planned and due to transfer to the Council via s106 developer funding arrangements. WODC require the Town Council's Officers to project manage these accordingly as they do not have the resources to assist. However due to the Council's Project Officer's workload the timing of some of the larger projects will have to be in 2025/26 +.

Members will agree that this does mean there is a significant work programme already planned for the municipal year and beyond, which does rely on Officers having the capacity to deliver, alongside competing demands of the Committees.

The Town Clerk will be condensing these projects and aspirations into the emerging strategic plan for adoption shortly.

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.

When considering its priorities, the Council should be mindful of all resources – financial as well as human resources – and the competing demands from all 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 in the attached appendices.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report.