

## **STRONGER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

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**Date:** Monday 30th May 2022

**Title:** **Open Spaces Strategy, Committee Objectives and Work Programme for the Municipal Year**

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

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### **BACKGROUND**

The purpose of this report is to

- a. review the Open Spaces Strategy Action Plan for areas under the responsibility of this Committee and where necessary review the timescale if commencement of completion dates has slipped; and
- b. give consideration to this Committees objectives/priorities in order for the Town Clerk to come up with a manageable programme of works, so that she can deploy the necessary resources appropriately.

### **OPEN SPACES STRATEGY ACTION PLAN**

Appendix A provides an extract from the adopted OSS relating to this Committees responsibilities. The Town Clerk doesn't suggest that any of these actions need refining at this stage.

### **CAPITAL AND SPECIAL REVENUE PROJECTS 2022/23**

The attached appendix (B) details the projects funded (or not) during the budget setting cycle. Most of these have set timescales – such as the Jubilee Commemorations and therefore there isn't much for the Committee to prioritise.

With regard to the Water Safety Education Programme – whilst the Town Clerk reached out to many organisations for support and a joined up approach it hasn't been possible for the Town Council to lead on any education programmes around water safety at this time. Most community engagement has been through social media or trying to support other local organisations such as the Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue. The Town Clerk has been informed that Thames Valley Police will be going into schools to deliver some information to pupils before the summer holidays.

## 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 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 and also in the attached appendices.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

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