

POLICY, GOVERNANCE & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date: Monday 6th June 2022

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

Contact Officer: Town Clerk/RFO – Sharon Groth

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 Personnel Sub-Committee has referred OSS Objective EE14 to this Committee for consideration and it relates to the Council *identifying options and a more structured approach to providing a more responsive out of hours service/call out service, as well as introducing possible work practices at weekends*. So that the Town Clerk can draft new terms and conditions for employment she needs to know what the Council's expectations were around weekend working – in particular what services might be operating (PSC Minute S167 refers).

As the Committee who has an overview on the Council's Open Spaces Strategy, finance, and resources, all committee action plans and objectives are provided as follows:

Appendix B – Parks & Recreation Committee

Appendix C – Halls, Cemeteries & Allotments Committee

Appendix D – Stronger Communities Committee

Appendix E – Climate, Biodiversity & Planning Committee

CAPITAL AND SPECIAL REVENUE PROJECTS 2022/23

The attached appendix (F) details the projects funded (or not) during the budget setting cycle for this Committee, along with a schedule for the other spending Committees at appendix G.

As well as the projects listed in these appendices – the Council does have funds held in its Earmarked Reserves for various other projects either not listed because it requires funds to be accumulated over a period of time or the project timeline has lapse past the original financial year.

The position on the EMRs as at 1 April 2022 is provided at appendix H (although the Town Clerk is currently waiting on contract Accountants updated data).

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 in the attached appendices.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to note the report and consider the Committees objectives/priorities for the coming municipal year, particularly regarding OSS Objective EE14 *identify options and a more structured approach to providing a more responsive out of hours service/call out service, as well as introducing possible work practices at weekends.*