

Committee: FULL COUNCIL

Date: 25 January 2022

Title: Strategic Plan 2022/2023

Purpose of Report

For members to consider the draft Town Council 5 Year Strategic Plan for 2022/23-2027/28

Recommendation:

Members to note the report and consider any recommendations that may be made as a result of the discussion.

Report:

1. The current strategic plan (**Appendix 9A**) that the council is working to was agreed at a council meeting in January 2021. Member's attention was drawn to the plan in the October 2021 budget setting meeting.
2. Any strategic plan should be a living document that all key stakeholders should be aware of, contributing to and reviewing on a regular basis and consideration was given by members attending this session to the SWOT analysis that had been carried out in the January 2021 document.
3. As part of the report to electors it is good practice to present a review of the plan so that progress and adjustments can be identified. The council identified three Strategic Themes.
 - a. The Ilminster Economy
 - b. The Ilminster Environment
 - c. Community Engagement and Governance
4. With the approaching election in May 2022 it would be prudent for members to look at the plan that is in place and assess how its current position reflects the themes that were agreed. It is likely that a new council from May 2022 is likely to want to set its own objectives and with a 5-year term of office and a new unitary authority in the process of being established there will be opportunities and threats that were not identified back in 2020/21.
5. With the purchasing of the Old Magistrates Court it is important that members are very clear going forward on how they see the use of this building will

contribute to the three strategic themes identified in the plan. Any further property acquisitions should also very clearly identify how it will fit with the identified themes.

6. At recent meeting of the Council Offices Working Group it was discussed that any future acquisitions should be based upon a clear identification of how the community would need such a building. There is a concern that some of the identification of the desires in the community need more concrete evidence to support them. This would clearly fit with the Community Engagement Theme.
7. Members have also been made aware of the Section 106 funding that is now being made available. This can be allocated to projects if put before council in the forthcoming months. The officer responsible for the section 106 funding at SSDC has offered to come and speak to members about the way in which the funds can be used for the community and what restrictions there are on its use.
8. The projects that have already been identified as possible areas for consideration include.
 - a. Recreation Ground Path/Gym
 - b. Tuckshop/Toilet refurb
 - c. Herne Hill improvements
 - d. CCTV and low-level lighting on the recreation ground
 - e. Refurbish the tennis courts
 - f. Tractor replacement provision
 - g. Website Replacement
 - h. Canal Maintenance
 - i. Cemetery path
 - j. Community group meeting room
 - k. Community bus to the Ilton Skate park
 - l. Refurbish Winterhay Play area
 - m. Refurbish West Crescent Play area surface
 - n. Skate park refurbishment
9. Members may wish to set up a small group in conjunction with officers to review the Strategic Plan 2021/22 so it that can provide the results to the Full Council ahead of when Purdah starts in March. This would then be able to be fed into the annual report of the council ahead of the new Council taking up its role in May.

Mark Tredwin
Town clerk
January 2022