

Iminster Town Council
Strategic Plan ~~2017/18 – 2020/2021~~ 2018/19-2020/21

Approved by Council ~~13 December 2016~~



The Town Council will work to make Iminster a place in which people want to work, live and visit.

Introduction

Iminster Town Council is the local council for the parish of Iminster, it is the third tier of local government - Somerset County Council and South Somerset District Council being the other tiers.

The town of Iminster has a population of approximately 6,000 of whom approx. 4,700 are aged over 16 years. There are approx. 2,700 dwellings.

The Town Council's responsibilities include the cemetery, play areas, approx. 55 acres of amenity land / recreational space, the Market House and the weekly market.

The civic year runs from May and starts with the election of the Mayor, appointment of the Deputy Mayor and election of the Committee Chairs at the Annual Town Council meeting.

There are 15 Town Councillors who serve the whole of the town (the town is not divided into wards) and elections to the Town Council are held every 4 years.

Context of the Strategic Plan

This 3 year Strategic Plan (2018/19-2020/21) is the Council's second rolling strategic plan. The first plan which started development in late 2016 followed by implementation from April 2017 was the foundation for this document; during that first year areas such as the quarterly reporting have been honed to link with risk management. It is intended that this second plan will be complemented by the development of 3 year financial strategy thus linking the Town Council's core strategic activities of project plans, budget and risk management.

~~Iminster is set to experience a high level of growth with at least 1 major housing development (in excess of 300 dwellings outline planning permission has been granted for up to 400 dwellings) at the pre-planning discussion stage as this strategic plan is in its infancy.~~

The major roads passing close to the town are the A358 (leading to the M5) and the A303 / A30. The A303 is a major route from London to the west country. The A303 and the A358 are scheduled for significant upgrading (from single to dual carriageway) and improvement, at the time of drafting the ~~is~~ strategic plan it is understood that Highways England ~~are considering and assessing options but no details or timescales are yet known. will be consulting again on the route options – the first consultation having been beset with adverse criticism.~~

The Town Council's resourcing levels (time and money) are finite and constrained by a number of factors, including some beyond the Town Council's control – such as the levels of council tax support grant available and the impact of new legislation.

The development of ~~the~~ a 3 year rolling strategic plan and complementary medium term budget is intended to focus activity and decision making, help prioritise projects and resourcing, and provide a baseline against which progress can be measured.

~~The Strategic Plan will be complemented by the development of a rolling 3-year Financial Plan.~~

Ilminster Town Council SWOT Analysis

Town Councillors have done a SWOT analysis ([November 2017](#)) to help identify areas of performance that could be improved and may be addressed when undertaking activities and projects

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>People (Staff and Councillors) Non-political council Friendly <u>Diversity of experience and knowledge</u> Cautious <u>and balanced approach</u> Community involvement of councillors <u>Size of the council</u> Community knowledge Knowledge of the area Community spirit <u>Thrifty and prudent</u> <u>Countryside Open Spaces management communication</u> <u>Governance</u> <u>Collaborative working</u></p>	<p>Peer-communication Structure needs review Time Generation of income Restricted budget Lack of planning <u>Office accommodation / Council Chamber</u></p>
Opportunities	Threats
<p>Income generation Grant funding Better communications <u>(especially electronic)</u> Development of Town Local community / people Financial Planning Skills and knowledge of people new to the town <u>A303 & A358 Dualling – potential for more employment</u> <u>Neighbourhood Plan</u> <u>Public Transport</u> <u>ITC accommodation</u> <u>Brexit</u> <u>Impact of employment opportunities outside the local area</u></p>	<p>Loss of grants Doing something new Unseen risks Time constraints Development of town Finance Ability to do nothing Government policy / cuts Anti social behaviour <u>Communication (management of electronic comms)</u> <u>Public transport</u> <u>A303 & A358 road improvements taking people away from the town</u> <u>Brexit</u> <u>Impact of employment opportunities outside the local area</u></p>

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Strategic Themes

The Town Council's resources will be focussed on 3 strategic themes:

- The Ilminster Economy,
- The Ilminster Environment
- Community Engagement and Governance

For the duration of this strategic plan any project or activity must either be a legal / best practice requirement and / or fit within at least 1 of the strategic themes.

The Work Plan

~~The work plan will be a dynamic document, updated regularly and presented to the Town Council for information at least 4 times a year.~~ The workplan will indicate: the project / activity, the link between the activity and the strategic theme, ~~completion target date and an indication of whether or not the project / activity is on track when the item was first added to the workplan and the likely year on which work will be started.~~

Monitoring Progress

A status report will be presented to the Town Council at least quarterly. There will be a report page for each strategic theme, the workplan items for the theme will be listed together with the progress made in the reporting period and the planned work for the next reporting period. There will also be a risk assessment for the theme and information on current risks and mitigations.

The list of projects / activities to be included in the ~~2017/18~~ 2018/19 – ~~2019/2020/21~~ workplan are:

- ~~Open Spaces~~ – provision of toilets in the Wharf Lane Recreation Ground, developing a dog policy, implementing the Open Spaces masterplan (regarding the Wharf Lane Rec & Britten's Field)

Note: the ~~above~~ list is not in any priority order

<u>Project / Topic</u>	<u>Date first put on workplan</u>	<u>(Anticipated) Start Date</u>
<u>Open spaces – implementing masterplan for Wharf lane Rec & Britten's Field (paths & Play area)</u>	<u>2017/2018</u>	<u>2017/2018</u>
<u>Cemetery – researching future need, availability of suitable land, feasibility of developing a new cemetery and–acquiring suitable land and designing new facility</u>	<u>2017/18</u>	
<u>Protecting Herne Hill from the impact of nearby development – including obtaining designation as a local nature reserve and acquisition of additional land</u>	<u>2017/2018</u>	<u>2017/18</u>
<u>Herne Hill – encourage use by providing route signage and information boards</u>	<u>2017/2018</u>	<u>2017/2018</u>
<u>Town Council accommodation</u>	<u>2017/18</u>	
<u>Neighbourhood Plan</u>	<u>2017/18</u>	<u>2017/2018</u>
<u>Protecting the burial / cemetery records whilst maintaining accessibility</u>	<u>2017/18</u>	<u>2017/18</u>
<u>Public Transport – investigate the possibility of enabling service provision</u>	<u>2018/19</u>	
<u>Instigate the set-up of a Community Land Trust</u>	<u>2018/19</u>	
<u>Coach parking / Service Station to bring people into the town</u>	<u>2018/19</u>	
<u>Improve the visual impact of the approach roads to the town</u>	<u>2018/19</u>	
<u>Weekly Market</u>	<u>2018/19</u>	
<u>Local Information Centre - closer collaboration</u>	<u>2018/19</u>	

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