

Cultural and Economic Services Committee

Date: 9 December 2019

Title: Corporate objectives: older people

Purpose of the Report: To provide the Committee with information to support the Motion submitted by Cllrs S Owen and R Goodchild in respect of older people.

Contact Officer: Mark Saccoccio, Town Clerk

Corporate Objective/s		LLTC Three Year Plan – Aim 1:
Implications:		
Financial	✓	Town Council budget for 2020-21 to be set in January 2020.
Human Resources	✓	To be reviewed upon completion of scoping work.
Operational/Service delivery	✓	To be reviewed upon completion of scoping work.
Procedural/Legal	✓	Council may need to consider whether it has legal powers for actions it wishes to take.
Risk/Health and Safety	X	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Should members be minded, the proposals are:

- 1.1 To note the report.
- 1.2 To consider the Motion in respect of older people submitted by Councillors S Owen and R Goodchild (attached).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide contextual background on discussion to date in respect of Town Council objectives. Given changes in Town Council Membership and the discussions that have taken place at different committees over a period of time, Members of the Committee may not be familiar with the work having taken place thus far.

2.2 Having completed most of the objectives contained within the Town Council's Three Year Plan for 2015-2018, work commenced in 2018 on the development of a Five Year Plan for the period 2019-2024.

2.3 Objectives for inclusion in the Five Year Plan arose from committee discussion and consultation with residents, including the residents' survey which was conducted during the autumn of 2018. This survey comprised of just under 500 face to face interviews with residents of Leighton-Linlade, in a number of different locations across the town.

2.4 A key aim of the survey was to engage with both long-term residents and newer residents, as well as ensuring views were sought from residents of all age groups. Residents were asked a number of questions, including what they felt should be the key areas of focus for the Town Council.

2.5 The demographic reach of the survey was as follows:

Aged 18-24	:	26 interviews, 5% of the total sample
Aged 25-34	:	75 interviews, 15% of the total sample
Aged 35-44	:	70 interviews, 14% of the total sample
Aged 45-54	:	68 interviews, 14% of the total sample
Aged 55-64	:	97 interviews, 20% of the total sample
Aged 65+	:	152 interviews, 31% of the total sample
Male	:	198 interviews, 41% of the total sample
Female	:	290 interviews, 59% of the total sample

2.6 The key areas of focus identified by residents were as follows:

	Total	< 35	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Focus on roads/ traffic/ infrastructure	17%	9%	20%	28%	12%	20%
More policing/ a station	14%	17%	14%	13%	16%	10%
Parks, open spaces and sporting provision	13%	11%	11%	18%	16%	11%
More for young people/ teenagers	12%	23%	11%	9%	7%	9%
Reinvigorate/ promote the town centre	9%	9%	11%	13%	8%	7%
Maintain cleanliness/ upkeep of town	8%	7%	6%	10%	6%	10%
Improve/ maintain the market	8%	5%	7%	13%	6%	11%
No comment/ nothing to say	8%	16%	4%	4%	7%	5%
Potholes	7%	7%	10%	3%	7%	7%

2.7 Areas of focus receiving a smaller response were as follows:

- Stop/ minimise town growth = 3%
- Health services (doctors) = 4%
- Schools = 2%
- TACTIC = 2%
- ASBO review = 3%

- Attract/ promote new businesses = 2%
- Help homeless = 4% - mentioned in all age groups/ tenures
- Pavements and paths = 3%
- Bus services = 2%
- Allotments = < 1%
- Parking = 5% - nil for under 35s, peaking at 9% among over 65s
- Social housing = 1%
- More for older residents = 3%
- Traveller issues = 2%
- More community events = 1%
- Focus on current responsibilities only = 1%

2.7 At its meeting held on 28 January 2019, Council received and endorsed the draft Five Year Plan and Objectives for 2019-2024. It was noted that this would be a living document which could be amended and added to by the new Council administration after May 2019.

3 UPDATES

3.1 Following the election of the new Council in May 2019, discussions have taken place at a number of committee meetings in respect of further objectives for this Council term. A suggested list of additional objectives was provided to Policy and Finance Committee on 29 July 2019 and was then subject to detailed discussion at the subsequent meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee held on 16 September 2019.

3.3 At the meeting of 16 September 2019, the following was agreed:

Whilst further work needed to be done to determine financial and resourcing requirements, a draft list of priorities was discussed for recommendation to Council. Once endorsed in principle, specific scoping work would be undertaken and projects progressed through the budget setting process and the appropriate Committee work plans.

RECOMMENDED to Council to endorse the proposed list below of projects and objectives for inclusion within the Council's work plan for 2019-2024:

2019-2020	
1	<i>Town Ranger service (from 1 April 2020)</i>
2	<i>Drinking water fountains</i>
3	<i>Changing pod facility in Parson's Close Recreation Ground</i>
4	<i>Additional memorialisation options (already underway)</i>
5	<i>Initial scoping work on services for older people (survey/consultation) – to be progressed thereafter</i>

2020-2021	
4	Adventure playground
5	Consideration of overflow car parking at Mentmore Park
6	Projects for young people (arising from current survey/consultation) – possibly including BMX track improvement/development
2021-2022	
7	Second Mausoleum (subject to interest)
Partnership/longer term project list	
8	Skate park improvement
9	Cultural and community facility
10	Soft play facility

3.4 The minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee were received and the recommendation endorsed by Council at its meeting held 30 September 2019.

3.5 At its meeting held 7 October 2019, the Cultural and Economic Services Committee agreed the following:

Minute reference 25/CE (Committee Work Plan)

The point was raised that Members were keen to include projects and activities for older people in the Council objectives for the four year term. As discussed at the Policy and Finance Committee, officers would undertake initial scoping work during the current year, for committee to then consider further what actions to take. It was suggested that officers liaise with Central Bedfordshire Council, following a recent Member briefing on the same subject.

Minute reference 27/CE (Youth Promise Grant Scheme)

RESOLVED to note the report and to give further consideration to a future grant scheme in summer 2020, to feed into the budget setting process for 2021-22.

3.6 Officers have drafted amendments to the Five Year Plan document based on the resolutions made. Once approved by Council at its next scheduled meeting on 27 January 2020, the revised Plan will be published.

3.7 Where a specific resolution has been made in respect of an agreed objective, committee work plans have been amended to reflect anticipated timescales. At present, committee work plans focus only on one municipal year and are updated each March/April in preparation for the following municipal year.

4 CURRENT STATUS

4.1 As agreed by Council in September, scoping work in respect of services/projects for older people is to be undertaken during the remainder of

the current financial year. The findings of said scoping work would be provided back to the Cultural and Economic Services Committee early in the next financial year, for its further consideration. It is likely that any such project would sit within the remit of this standing committee.

- 4.2 It is anticipated that initial scoping work can be undertaken within existing staffing resources.

5 FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 The Town Council's Five Year Financial Plan is an iterative document which sets out how annual funds allocated to Future Projects could be used to finance corporate objectives outside the revenue budget. At present, the Plan reflects a Future Projects allocation of £200,000 per financial year, in line with budgets of the last few years.
- 5.3 The Town Council is due to approve a budget and set a precept at its meeting to be held on 27 January 2020.
- 5.4 Upon finalisation of the budget, (giving certainty to the Future Projects allocation for 2020-21), the Five Year Financial Plan can be further reviewed in line with agreed Council objectives.
- 5.5 Once outcomes of scoping work have been reviewed by Committee and decisions taken on the preferred way forward, resourcing implications in terms of staffing may need further consideration through the relevant committees.
- 5.6 When considering the outcomes of scoping work and recommendations for moving forward, Council will need to ensure it has the appropriate legal powers to take forward whatever action is proposed. The Committee is reminded that the General Power of Competence does not override any existing legislation precluding specific actions.

End.