

6.0 Corporate Objectives 2019-2024 – mid term Council officers’ updates at July 2021 shown in italics in second column.

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL FIVE YEAR PLAN & OBJECTIVES 2019 – 2024

LIB DEM GROUP REVIEW OCTOBER 2021

Issue 3 22 October 2021

OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY		LIB DEM COMMENT	KEEP IN + PRIORITY OR DELETE
To ensure value for money, and operational efficiency and a structure which will underpin current and future service delivery by the Town Council. This work will be primarily within the remit of the Policy and Finance Committee.			
1	To regularly review how we communicate and seek to embrace new technologies. <i>Digital meetings held in 2020/21 plus live webcasting of the Remembrance Day service and the Annual Parish Meeting on social media.</i>	No SMART objectives quoted. But worth surveying councillors’ views on how well meetings and “papers” work.	Keep in. Low.
2	To continue to aim towards a paperless office. <i>The Covid-19 pandemic accelerated this objective with a significant move towards more online working.</i>	No SMART objectives quoted. Part of officers’ background responsibilities. (“OBR”)	Delete
3	To review our financial systems and develop more financial analysis/reporting. <i>This work is scheduled for 2022-23.</i>	No SMART objectives quoted. OBR. Councillors satisfied that financial reporting is already of adequate standard.	Delete
4	To develop a customer service strategy. <i>This work was commenced in 2019/early 2020 but was delayed due to the pandemic. It is intended to progress this during 2021-22.</i>	OBR.	Delete
5	To review waste and recycling operations <i>A new waste contract in 2019 has resulted in a significant increase in recycled waste, particularly from the town’s multi award-winning parks and open spaces.</i>	OBR. We have managed two years without officers needing to report on this.	Delete
6	To revisit the Volunteer Strategy. <i>Following consultation with volunteer groups, a new policy was adopted by Council in 2020. COMPLETED.</i>		Delete as completed
7	To increase environmental awareness and incorporate the Town Council’s environmental ambitions across all facilities and service areas.	Too vague. How can the italicised comments be done? SMART objectives should be identified to replace this. More	Keep in but Replace. High?

	<i>This work is ongoing and will be reported to Council on a six monthly basis. Reports will be available to view on our website.</i>	important since Council adoption of environmental motion on 27.9.21.	
8	To work with the local authority to review and where appropriate, upgrade existing CCTV provision. <i>The CCTV cameras in Town Council owned parks will be upgraded to digital in 2021, allowing better quality data capture, particularly at night.</i>	Duplicate of Partnership Project List project.	Delete
9	To consider imaginative uses of Community Safety budgets for the benefit of our community. <i>Funds have been invested in supporting young people and reducing antisocial behaviour, supporting traffic management in the vicinity of schools.</i>	Do officers comb more widely for inspiration on what is working effectively elsewhere? Such as in NALC Points of Light?	Keep in. Medium.
10	To renew the Council's Quality Gold accreditation in 2021. <i>Re-accreditation confirmed in May 2021. COMPLETED</i>	OBR	Delete as completed.

TOWN GROWTH COMMUNITY COHESION & INFRASTRUCTURE			
To recognise and embrace co-plan the growth of our community town with Central Bedfordshire Council and other agencies and to seek to influence the local authority and partners to plan and secure adequate infrastructure provision.		Objectives need allocating to committees.	
11	To work collaboratively develop a plan for collaborative working with neighbouring parishes, particularly in respect of planned housing growth but in other areas too. <i>This work is ongoing through various meetings and forums.</i>	The italics are wrong - we are not doing this. The current urgent publicity for Eggington parish residents underlines its absence over a period of years.	Keep in. High at the moment – medium generally.
12	To embrace the eastern urban extension and seek to integrate this into the existing community. To secure the redrawing of parish boundaries to include the housing growth east of the town into our parish. <i>The Town Council has lobbied CBC and the Boundary Commission to undertake a governance review as soon as practicable.</i>	The italics don't mention the need to persuade residents in the new Eastern housing of their long-term benefits as part of our parish. Lobbying officialdom on its own isn't enough.	Keep in. High.
12a	To consult the new East Leighton Buzzard residents to identify a priority list of community needs as input to discussions with CBC on S106 delivery.	Suggested new Objective.	High
12b	To press to move the Linslade boundary out to the bypass.	Suggested new Objective.	Medium

13	To continue to lobby Central Bedfordshire Council for improved and timely infrastructure by a) generating a Neighbourhood Plan, b) generating a priority list of Infrastructure needs for our town, c) pursuing S106 allocations to that list through periodic meetings with CBC planning officers, including discussions on destinating previously-negotiated S106 allocations, d) tagging consideration of planning applications at P & T Committee with fresh S106 requests linked to that list, e) regular monitoring of the delivery of those negotiated allocations. <i>This work is ongoing through the Leighton-Linslade Partnership Committee.</i>	Hugely important Objective. Probably needs splitting into two or three linked Objectives. Neil Homer's Neighbourhood Plan report to P & F Cttee on 20.9.2021. Italics say Partnership Cttee is doing the e) monitoring – it isn't. This should be done at P & T Committee with new officer assistance.	Keep in. Split Objectives. High.
14	To review the parish boundary and ward arrangements. <i>See point 12 above.</i>	Duplicate of 12 above.	Delete
15	To continue to seek ways in which to help support community safety, community cohesion and help address antidote isolation and loneliness in Older People. <i>Work commenced in 2020 to support older people in the community by helping relevant groups, providing information and addressing digital inclusion. The council has introduced new off-peak pricing to encourage community use of its facilities.</i>	Community Safety is in 9 above. The Older Persons Loneliness Objective needs to be on its own. The Community Cohesion thing needs to be unpicked into a specific Objective (if there is an Objective there).	Delete Keep in. High. Unclear.
16	To discuss regularly with Central Bedfordshire Council continue to liaise with the local authority on matters for which it is responsible and which affect residents of the parish. <i>This work is ongoing and includes raising matters including traffic and transport issues, parking, community safety matters and healthcare provision.</i>	So although this looks like an OBR it is sufficiently important to be worth including. Probably needs to cast its net wider to include specifics eg Health matters, Schools, Library.	Keep in. Medium.

VIBRANCY AND VITALITY OF TOWN AND TOWN CENTRE			
	To continue to support a thriving, vital and successful town centre and vibrant town through a town planning partnership with Central Bedfordshire Council working and initiatives including management of the street market, support for local businesses, town and community promotions, and town centre enhancements. This work will be primarily within the remit of the Cultural & Economic Services Committee.	Rejigged Objective to focus on town centre.	Keep in. Medium.
17	To consider delivery of a Town Ranger service.	OBR – or is there some further Objective to attain?	Probably delete.

	<i>Commenced April 2021, led by the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee, external funding of £100,000 has been secured.</i>		
18	To promote the creation of a soft play facility within the town.	Duplicate PPL project – also suggested for deletion as being a commercial activity.	Delete
19	To identify, promote and celebrate the unique features and heritage of the Parish to both residents and visitors. <i>Buzzard Trails App. for Living History Trail launched October 2019. The locally distinctive new Town Centre logo launched 2020.</i>	Probably worth retaining as a contributor Objective to the “thriving” aim. Ought the “Museum” aspiration appear here as a specific?	Keep in. Medium.
20	To consider taking on additional services, where practicable and where considered beneficial to the town.	Is this about devolution? If so it needs to be made much more specific. The Council has not discussed this in the past two years.	Or delete.
21	To promote the town centre as a safe and vibrant place to visit in the evening. <i>Coordination role of Best Bar None scheme relinquished March 2020 & passed to Central Bedfordshire Council. 2020 scheme cancelled. Town Centre lighting scheme ongoing.</i>	Vague. If there is a useful specific here should be moved to partner Aim 9.	Delete
22	Consider the provision of town centre Wi-Fi (including footfall monitoring facility). <i>Wi-Fi and GeoSence footfall systems went ‘live’ January 2020. Funded for 3yrs using planning development funds, s106, released by CBC. Suggested replacement Objective: To introduce ‘piped’ music via wifi systems to improve the retail ambiance particularly at Christmas.</i>	Completed? Ongoing management OBR?	Delete.
23	To continue to manage, promote and develop the street market. <i>Alternative location in May, returned to the High Street in June, short-term ‘Thursday eXtra’ market delivered & current layout utilising temporary pedestrianisation of High Street.</i>	Feels like OBR as worded? Is there some SMART Objective that would be worth inclusion?	Delete otherwise.
24	To continue to deliver quality community events and regularly review their scope and delivery. <i>Alternative delivery throughout 2020, online band concerts, online VE&VJ day activity, Town Centre Business & Halloween Trails & Christmas markets.</i>	OBR.	Delete
25	To consider ways to work with town centre businesses to achieve digital/online commerce options and promote the town’s shopping/leisure offer.	OBR unless some specific and valuable Aim can be identified.	Delete

	<i>Funding for online LL Directory (Shopping & Services), funded ShopLocalLB online platform (shop based businesses), updated Town Centre Shops & Services Directory & circulated, COVID-19 Welcome Back campaign delivered & updated Official Town Guide.</i>		
26	To consider ways to support the increase in leisure and personal development opportunities for youth, incorporating ongoing feedback from young people and considering suitability of delivery locations for youth work. <i>Table tennis tables installed in parks following feedback from young people funded by Grounds and Environmental Services Committee, commenced preparations with Partnership Committee's Community Forum, for youth survey to be delivery in autumn 2021; theme of youth provision within the town. Annual TACTIC delivery plan in place.</i>	There may be a current valid Objective but rewording needed; as currently worded it is OBR.	Delete otherwise.
27	To consider ways to support the increase in leisure opportunities for older people. <i>See no. 15. £50k dedicated to fund digital inclusion scheme, 55up Grant Fund, directory of leisure activities & provided community web development.</i>	Objective 15 addresses the antidoting loneliness in Older People issue. This more general Objective has not been discussed by the Council in the past two years. Does that mean there isn't a valuable specific Aim here?	If not, delete.
27a	To consider the potential identify an outline facilities and services spec for a cultural and community facility Centre in the town centre, followed by space/location requirements, followed by a Project planning process, including funding, to enable the Council to reach a go/no go decision. <i>South Side Task & Finish group established and reporting to Partnership Committee.</i>	Terms of Reference for the agreed Working Group awaited from officers (as at 19.10.21). Also awaiting release of monies held by CBC for feasibility study. An outline spec of facilities, services and space needs exists and has been received by the Council.	Keep in. High.

GREAT PUBLIC OPEN SPACES		
	To provide great award-winning public open spaces with varied opportunities for sport and leisure, and to exceed expectations in delivering deliver high-quality cemetery and allotment services. This work will primarily be within the remit of the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee.	

28	To refurbish Pages Park pavilion to ensure it is safe and suitable for continued community and sporting use. <i>COMPLETED.</i>	Completed.	Delete
29	To create a plan for the management, maintenance and use of all pavilion buildings. <i>Ongoing – External cleaning contractor appointed, new pavilions supervisor in place.</i>	OBR.	Delete
30	To continue to provide excellent play equipment across the parish and to expand the range of accessible play equipment available. <i>Ongoing – annually received in the March committee meeting to agree on the following year’s programme of works.</i>	OBR	Delete
31	To expand memorial services available at Town Council run cemeteries. <i>Additions to Vandyke Road Cemetery COMPLETED - New memorial options installed, and pricing agreed September 2020. Considerations for Old Linslade Cemetery under review. Enhanced marketing will be delivered by the end of 2021.</i>	Reword to express current Objective.	Keep in. Low.
32	To continue to actively seek additional cemetery land or where this is not possible, to consider other ways in which to expand burial capacity. <i>Central Bedfordshire Council approached – Update to the committee in September 2021.</i>		Keep in. High.
33	To continue to computerise historic cemetery records. <i>Ongoing – Please note it is highly likely that this may never be completed. Possibilities for volunteers undertaking some work will be reviewed and updated to committee for consideration when possible.</i>	OBR unless there is a valuable specific Aim that can be identified.	Delete.
34	To create a ten year planned maintenance programme for buildings and assets. <i>Ongoing – Previously taken to 2nd December 2019 committee meeting.</i>	OBR	Delete
35	To continue to seek freehold depot premises.	OBR (no discussion at Council for past two years so presumably no urgency).	Delete
36	To continue to aim towards the creation of localised Friends groups. <i>Ongoing – Previously taken to 10th June 2019 committee meeting.</i>	Objective unclear. No recent officer action. OBR	Delete
37	To consider options for restoration of historic features and monuments, where practicable and viable.	OBR until a clear Objective is identified.	Delete

38	To seek to maintain and enhance sporting provision. <i>Ongoing – Sports and Physical Activity Development Plan currently being revised (Sept 2020).</i>	OBR until a clear Objective is identified.	Delete
39	To continue to build on the success of the annual Anglia in Bloom campaign. <i>Ongoing annually received in the December committee meeting. Campaign Achievements – 2021 (Cancelled), 2020 (Cancelled), 2019 (Gold), 2018 (Gold).</i>	OBR	Delete
40	To install interpretation panels in the parks and open spaces. <i>Ongoing – Previously taken to the 9th September 2019 committee meeting. Update to be provided at the September committee meeting.</i>	Unclear.	Unclear
41	To install drinking water fountains in the larger parks. <i>Work on this project has been postponed until 2022/2023.</i>	Councillors need to understand the value for money case for this Objective	Unclear
42	To install a Changing Pod facility in Parson's Close Recreation Ground to meet requirements of additional needs. <i>Completed – Fully funded through S106 monies from Central Bedfordshire Council.</i>	Completed	Delete
43	To consider the development of the playground in Parson's Close Recreation Ground to incorporate an adventure play area. <i>Ongoing – Currently planned to be completed by the end of 2021.</i>	Project sanctioned by Council – current.	Delete when completed.
44	To consider car parking arrangements and capacity at town council-owned facilities. <i>Linslade Memorial Playing Field – CBC approached regarding enforcement.</i>	Unclear whether this as an Objective.	Unclear
45	To continue to invest in facilities for young people. <i>Sept 2020 – Purchase of outdoor table tennis tables agreed.</i>	Presumably this is completed. Do officers have an annual Plan for development of facilities for Young People that could attract a cost allocation and be considered as an Objective?	Unclear
46	To work with key partners on the development of the Leighton-Linslade Green Wheel. <i>Endorsed by Council and is now being implemented where possible. £20k of funds made available for projects to be completed.</i>	Objective unclear.	Unclear
47	To assess likely future demand for allotments. <i>Update to committee March 2022.</i>	As a statutory responsibility there may well be a valuable Objective waiting here to be discovered.	Unclear

48	To consider possibilities for the restoration of the Henry Finch Memorial Fountain in Linslade Recreation Ground.	Councillors need to understand the value for money case for this Objective	Unclear
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[1] Priority means: does this appear to merit significant (“high”) or some (“medium”) commitment of time and money resources.

Additional Objectives needed relating to councillors’ current objectives and concerns: examples:

Policing-related

Climate emergency practical programme

New Eastern estates – consultation on community needs – surgery, shops, meeting places, post office, play spaces

Developing and consulting on a public use strategy for worked-out sandpits including birdlife reserve

Jobs for young people

Winter contingency plan eg gritting bins

Digital, health & wellbeing centre

Good neighbour volunteer scheme

Glass recycling

Tree planting programme

New estate wardens

Decentralised Town Council public engagement points

Encouraging bee-keeping on set-aside meadow.

[2] All the above are examples of real services being delivered currently by real Town & Parish Councils, as listed in the NALC publication “Points of Light”.

Steve Owen

22.10.2021

