

4 December 2023

Committee	Council
Date	Tuesday, 12 December 2023
Time of Meeting	6:00 pm
Venue	Tewkesbury Borough Council Offices, Severn Room

ALL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND

Agenda

1. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. When the continuous alarm sounds you must evacuate the building by the nearest available fire exit. Members and visitors should proceed to the visitors' car park at the front of the building and await further instructions (during office hours staff should proceed to their usual assembly point; outside of office hours proceed to the visitors' car park). Please do not re-enter the building unless instructed to do so.

In the event of a fire any person with a disability should be assisted in leaving the building.

2. To receive any announcements from the Chair of the Meeting and/or the Chief Executive.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pursuant to the adoption by the Council on 24 January 2023 of the Tewkesbury Borough Council Code of Conduct, effective from 1 February 2023, as set out in Minute No. CL.72, Members are invited to declare any interest they may have in the business set out on the Agenda to which the approved Code applies.

4. MINUTES

7 - 34

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2023, the Special meeting held on 7 November 2023 and the Extraordinary meeting held on 21 November 2023.

5. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- a) To receive any questions, deputations or petitions submitted under Council Rule of Procedure.12.

(The deadline for public participation submissions for this meeting is Wednesday 6 December 2023.)

- b) To receive any petitions submitted under the Council's Petitions Scheme.

6. MEMBER QUESTIONS PROPERLY SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

To receive any questions submitted under Rule of Procedure 13. Any items received will be circulated by 5pm on Monday 11 December 2023.

(Any questions must be submitted in writing to Democratic Services by, not later than, 10.00am on Monday 4 December 2023).

7. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Council is asked to consider and determine recommendations of a policy nature arising from the Executive Committee as follows:-

(a) Medium Term Financial Strategy

35 - 58

At its meeting on 29 November 2023, the Executive Committee considered the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25-2028/29 and **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that it be **ADOPTED**.

(b) Tewkesbury Garden Town Programme Delegations

59 - 62

At its meeting on 29 November 2023, the Executive Committee considered the Tewkesbury Garden Town Programme Delegations and **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to:

- i) prepare bids for external revenue funding to support the delivery of the Garden Town programme;
- ii) accept grants of external revenue funding of up to £50,000 and agree any terms and conditions associated with those awards;
- iii) seek specific Council approval for the acceptance of grants of external revenue funding of over £50,000 and any terms and conditions associated with those awards;
- iv) deploy the revenue resources in line with the funding bids and the Garden Town programme following the Council's normal procedures for procurement and the appointment of staff;
- v) ensure continued stakeholder engagement related to the programme takes place informed by production of a Tewkesbury Garden Town Charter for subsequent, specific approval by Council in February 2024;
- vi) undertake activities to progress the Garden Town programme, including sourcing potential partner capital funding, whilst seeking specific Council approval for:
 - acceptance of any partner grant for capital works; and
 - acting as lead for delivery of infrastructure elements of the programme where necessary; and
- vii) in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Lead Member for Built Environment, provide quarterly update reports to Council on progress with the Garden Town programme.

(c) Infrastructure Funding Statement and Annual Community Infrastructure Levy Rate Summary Statement

63 - 114

At its meeting on 29 November 2023, the Executive Committee considered the Infrastructure Funding Statement and Annual Community Infrastructure Levy Rate Summary Statement and **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that publication of the Infrastructure Funding Statement, relating to the financial year ending 31 March 2023, by 31 December 2023, be **APPROVED**, subject to appropriate amendments to the IFS if necessary to clarify what had been brought forward, received, spent and allocated for future maintenance thereby arriving at the closing balance, and that the Annual Community Infrastructure Levy Rate Summary Statement be published alongside the Infrastructure Funding Statement by 31 December 2023.

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Ban on Pets as Prizes

Councillor Skelt will propose and Councillor Pervaiz will second:

England's local authorities have the opportunity to ban the giving of live animals as prizes on Council-owned land to ensure the welfare of these animals is not compromised. They can also assist by raising public awareness of the issue and can lead the way in terms of prohibiting this outdated practice.

Animal ownership is a big responsibility - one that should be planned and well thought out. Animals often do not have their welfare needs met prior to, during, and after being given as prizes. Because of this, we actively discourage people against taking on an animal in a spontaneous, ill-planned manner.

Prospective owners should have a clear understanding of their responsibilities involved in animal ownership, they should carefully consider whether they have the necessary facilities, time, financial means and level of interest to care for these animals. This is often not the case when an animal is suddenly thrust into your hand as a prize. Being given away as a prize can be extremely detrimental to the welfare of an animal. Sadly, many goldfish will die before even getting back to their new homes, or shortly after.

RSPCA England believes the current legislative provisions under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 do not go far enough, and would like to see England introduce legislation similar to Scotland's. The Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 makes it an offence to give an animal as a prize to anyone, regardless of their age, except within the family context - such as a parent rewarding their child's achievements with a new pet, for example

By issuing an outright ban of such activities on Council-owned or operated land, or their properties, the Council will send a clear message of its commitment to ensure the welfare of animals and help reinforce the message that these practices are no longer desirable in our community, these small changes could make a big difference; 36 of England's local authorities have already taken this step.

We as a local authority have an ideal opportunity with this Motion to ban the giving of live animals as prizes on all Tewkesbury Borough owned land.

This Council:

- Is concerned about the number of cases reported to the RSPCA each year regarding pets given as prizes via fairgrounds, social media and other channels.
- Is concerned about the welfare of those animals being given as prizes.
- Recognises that many cases of pets being as prizes may go unreported each year.
- Supports a move to ban the giving of live animals as prizes, in any form, in Tewkesbury Borough.

The Council therefore agrees to:

- Ban outright the giving of live animals as prizes, in any form, on Tewkesbury Borough land.
- Write to the UK Government, urging an outright ban on the giving of live animals as prizes on both public and private land.

(b) Ban on Puppy Farms

Councillor Skelt will propose and Councillor Adcock will second that:

Tewkesbury Council believes Puppy Farms – in which dogs are bred purely for profit with little concern for their welfare – are cruel and inhumane. They are often run illegally without the correct licensing and monitoring from the local Council.

Dogs on puppy farms are more likely to be over-bred, kept in poor conditions and not receive adequate food or vet care. Research from the Naturewatch Foundation estimates that 400,000 farmed puppies are brought every year in the UK.

Tewkesbury Borough Council fully supports efforts to crack down on illegal puppy farms, such as the introduction of ‘Lucy’s Law’ in 2020 banning the third-party sale of puppies in the first six months of their life. Tewkesbury Borough Council expresses its disappointment in the Government’s decision in May 2023 to break its promise to introduce a ‘Kept Animals Bill’ to add further protections to prevent dogs from being exploited on puppy farms.

Tewkesbury Borough Council recognises the legal role it has to provide licenses to all dog breeders who sell puppies for a profit. Tewkesbury Borough Council further believes it can help make sure those wishing to buy puppies do so from reputable, licensed breeders.

The Council therefore agrees to:

- Publish an up to date list of locally licensed dog breeders on its website so local residents who wish to buy a puppy are signposted to reputable breeders.
- Undertake a dedicated publicity campaign to raise awareness of illegal puppy breeding and signs to look for when buying a puppy that suggest it might come from a puppy farm, and how to report suspicious activity.
- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs calling for the Kept Animals Bill to be revived to make it more difficult for puppy farmers to operate.

9. STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

115 - 116

To agree to increase the membership of the Standards Committee to three Independent Persons and three Parish Councillors.

10. APPOINTMENT TO LOWER SEVERN INTERNAL DRAINAGE BOARD

To appoint a Member to represent the Council on the Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board.

Recording of Meetings

In accordance with the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, please be aware that the proceedings of this meeting may be recorded and this may include recording of persons seated in the public gallery or speaking at the meeting. Please notify the Democratic Services Officer if you have any objections to this practice and the Mayor will take reasonable steps to ensure that any request not to be recorded is complied with.

Any recording must take place in such a way as to ensure that the view of Councillors, Officers, the public and press is not obstructed. The use of flash photography and/or additional lighting will not be allowed unless this has been discussed and agreed in advance of the meeting.

Executive Director: Resources

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at the Council Offices, Gloucester Road, Tewkesbury on Tuesday, 26 September 2023 commencing at 6:00 pm

Present:

The Worshipful the Mayor
Deputy Mayor

Councillor I Yates
Councillor P N Workman

and Councillors:

N D Adcock, C Agg, H J Bowman, T J Budge, C L J Carter, C M Cody, C F Coleman, S R Dove, P A Godwin, D W Gray, S Hands, D J Harwood, A Hegenbarth, M L Jordan, E J MacTiernan, G C Madle, J R Mason, H C McLain, P D McLain, J P Mills, P W Ockelton, K Pervaiz, G M Porter, J K Smith, P E Smith, R J G Smith, R J Stanley, H Sundarajoo, M G Sztymiak, R J E Vines and M J Williams

CL.49 ANNOUNCEMENTS

49.1 The evacuation procedure, as noted on the Agenda, was advised to those present.

CL.50 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

50.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E M Dimond-Brown, M A Gore, C E Mills, E C Skelt and M R Stewart.

CL.51 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

51.1 The Committee's attention was drawn to the Tewkesbury Borough Code of Conduct which was adopted by the Council on 24 January 2023 and took effect on 1 February 2023.

51.2 The following declarations were made:

Councillor	Application No./Item	Nature of Interest (where disclosed)	Declared Action in respect of Disclosure
H C McLain	Item 9 – Notice of Motion: Fostering	Is a foster carer.	Would not speak or vote in relation to this item.
P D McLain	Item 9 – Notice of Motion: Fostering	Is a foster carer.	Would not speak or vote in relation to this item.
R J Stanley	Item 9 – Notice of Motion: Fostering	Is a foster carer.	Would speak and vote.

51.3 There were no further declarations made on this occasion.

CL.52 MINUTES

52.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2023, copies of which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

CL.53 ITEMS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

53.1 There were no items from members of the public.

CL.54 MEMBER QUESTIONS PROPERLY SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

54.1 The following question was received from Councillor Cody to the Lead Member for Built Environment, Councillor Mary Jordan. The answer was given by the Lead Member for Built Environment and was taken as read without discussion.

Question 1

At the Council meeting on 22 June 2021, I asked a question regarding the removal of the hedgerow at Coombe Hill (new housing next to the Swan public house). For reference, please see my original question and the answer that followed:

Question from Cllr Cody 22/06/21

“Specifically referring to Planning Application 21/00039/ENFB - Part Parcel 8917, Tewkesbury Road, Coombe Hill, Gloucester, planning permission was given to this application with the specific condition that ancient hedgerow was not to be removed.

Following the removal of the hedge, the council’s response that the situation is disappointing - but that it has been satisfactorily appeased by the promise of planting a new hedge - surely misses the point.

Ancient hedges cannot simply be replaced by new - not only do these take years to establish, but the current wildlife is stripped of its habitat and quite often these hedges and trees are not watered or cared for properly and die anyway. In addition to the ecological damage, there is also the immorality and the avoidance of any sanction which set precedent for others to do the same elsewhere.

The approved plans indicate that the eastern hedgerow running parallel with the A38 was due to be altered in order to incorporate the new highway access and its visibility splays and the relocation of the existing north bound bus stop. Altered does not mean removed.

QUESTION: What is the point of planning permission and conditions associated with them if they can just be blatantly ignored?”

Answer:

“Where appropriate, Officers will seek the retention of trees and hedgerows on development sites through the application process although this is not always possible. The approved plans for the development adjacent to the Swan public house indicated that the eastern hedgerow, running parallel with the A38, was due to be altered in order to incorporate the new highway access and its visibility splays and the relocation of the existing north bound bus stop. The County Archaeologist was consulted as part of the application and did not identify any ancient hedgerows on the site.

Given the proximity of the pre-existing hedgerow to the carriageway this could only realistically be achieved by removing the hedgerow. A replacement hedgerow will

be secured through the approval of the landscaping plan – this new hedge will enjoy protection for at least five years following completion of the development. The clearance of the site was overseen by a qualified ecologist. Officers were advised that vegetation and boundary hedgerows were thoroughly checked but no nesting birds were discovered. Other wildlife checks were also carried out.”

Referring to the answer to my question in 2021, I quote, “*this new hedge will enjoy protection for at least five years following completion of the development*”. The majority of the hedge that was planted is now dead, especially the end nearest the junction. Who is responsible for monitoring the ‘protection’ of hedges and indeed trees for that matter and who will be enforcing this and making sure another hedge is duly replanted?

Answer

Following an inspection on 19 September 2023, it has been identified that much of the hedgerow planting to the frontage of the site is dead or defective. Some trees planted within the site have also been identified as defective. Consequently, it appears there has been a breach of planning condition 2 of planning permission ref: 22/00876/FUL. Condition 2 states: *The landscaping scheme approved under Condition discharge application 21/00041/CONDIS shall be implemented no later than the first planting season following the completion of the development. The planting shall thereafter be maintained for a period of 5 years. If during this time any trees, shrubs or other plants are removed, die, or are seriously diseased, these shall be replaced during the next planting season with others of similar size and species unless the Local Planning Authority gives written consent to any variation. If any plants fail more than once they shall continue to be replaced on an annual basis until the end of the 5 year maintenance period.*

The LPA will be getting in touch with the developer of the site to ensure that adequate remedial measures are taken.

54.2 The Mayor invited supplementary questions and the Member asked the following which the Lead Member for Built Environment advised would be answered in writing:

Q1 - As Officers would not be able to look at all relevant sites in the borough, who was responsible for monitoring those sites and would protection, which was supposed to last for five years, start again when replanted.

CL.55 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tewkesbury Garden Town Review - Progress Update

55.1 At its meeting on 6 September 2023, the Executive Committee considered the progress made against the 17 recommendations from the gateway review report, in particular the new approaches to engagement with communities and robust programme management, and recommended to Council that progress be noted; that the new governance arrangements, including revised programme monitoring and reporting designed to improve visibility and transparency be approved, subject to amendments to Page No. 135, Paragraph 4.1 - Membership of the Tewkesbury Garden Town Assurance Board to be updated to include three Members from the Members Engagement Forum, Page No. 136, Paragraph 4.3.1 – Reference to the Programme Board to be changed to the Project Board, and Page No. 136, Paragraph 4.6.1 – Members Engagement Forum to meet once a month for the first six months following which meeting frequency would be reviewed by the Tewkesbury Garden Town Assurance Board; and to agree that the Council, as

promoter, explores opportunities with developers and landowners within the Garden Town area to align their proposals for development with the developing vision and aspirations for Tewkesbury Garden Town.

- 55.2 A report had been circulated with the Agenda for the current meeting at Pages No. 17-36.
- 55.3 As Chair of the Executive Committee, the Leader of the Council proposed that Members had already received a briefing in relation to the progress made against the 17 report recommendations but, in terms of the governance arrangements, it had been a lengthy process to reach this point and, along with the Chief Executive, he had met a number of Parish and Town Councils where it had quickly become apparent that they wanted to be part of a governance board in order to have oversight of the project which, up until now, had been missing. The Executive Committee had recommended some minor amendments which would make the governance arrangements more robust and that had been shared with other Parish and Town Councils who had attended a meeting at the Council Offices. He recognised that the governance structure would not restore their faith or confidence in the authority but it was an important first step to show it was intent on involving them and giving them that oversight. The third part of the recommendation related to the need to continue to explore and work with landowners and developers and be open and transparent in relation to that. In seconding the proposal, the Lead Member for Built Environment felt it was important to recognise the amount of work that had been done in a relatively short space of time. The proposal would ensure that a sound framework was in place going forward and working closely with the community would be essential to the success of the project.
- 55.4 A Member sought clarification as to whether Ward Councillors would be invited to attend future meetings between the Chief Executive, Leader of the Council and Town and Parish Councils. He indicated that the governance structure had been presented to Ashchurch Rural Parish Council for comment and questioned how this could represent meaningful engagement. Furthermore, in terms of location, Ashchurch Rural was a primary site for the Garden Town and he sought clarification as to whether that was reflected in the governance structure. He also questioned the involvement of the local Ward Councillors on the Tewkesbury Garden Town Assurance Board and asked whether the governance structure had been tested with other Garden Town projects elsewhere in the country. In response, the Leader of the Council advised that the invitation to attend meetings with himself, the Chief Executive and Town and Parish Councils would be extended to Ward Councillors and he believed that had been the case in terms of the meeting with Ashchurch Rural Parish Council. He stressed that work had been done at pace since the current administration had inherited the Garden Town project – it was important to establish a governance structure which involved Town and Parish Councils for openness and transparency but it could evolve and change over time if it was not working. Whilst the local Ward Member was not specifically represented on the Assurance Board, it was intended that it would include three representatives from the Member Engagement Forum, to be nominated by the Forum. Although it was a decision for the Council in terms of having specific Members, or more Member representatives on that board, it was important the programme was manageable and it was felt that three representatives was appropriate. In terms of Parish Council involvement, it would be up to the Parish Council Liaison Group in terms of the membership they wanted to put forward. The decision regarding the governance structure had to stay with the Council but the Oversight Board would have an opportunity to engage and comment.
- 55.5 A Member indicated that she found the diagram at Page No. 32 of the report confusing. She sought clarification as to who was on the Assurance Board, how many Members were on the Project Board and who else was on it. She expressed

the view that the Ward Members in the locality of the Garden Town were those who knew the most about the area, including Tewkesbury Town Council, and she would like to see more clarification before she could vote in favour of the governance arrangements. The Leader of the Council indicated that membership of the Assurance Board was set out at Page No. 29, Paragraph 4.1 of the report. He felt that it was a fair point in terms of the three local Members having the most knowledge about the area and he would be happy to support that they be included within the membership if that was the majority view. In terms of the Project Board, this was detailed at Page No. 29, Paragraph 4.3.1 of the report which set out that it would be responsible for managing the project plan and fulfilling the promoter role on behalf of the Council; it would have no decision-making powers unless they were delegated by the Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) and the board would be chaired by the Project Lead Officer, supported by the Project Manager, and comprised of technical officer leads from finance, communications and legal and others as required as the project progressed. With respect to the diagram, the Chief Executive indicated that some changes had been made following initial engagement with Town and Parish Councils to demonstrate changes to colleagues and those had inadvertently become embedded into the diagram.

55.6 A Member acknowledged the amount of hard work which had been done in a short period but his position remained unchanged and he felt both Members and the public would benefit from a record of the Executive Committee meeting where this had been discussed in separate business - he felt it was important that the public were aware of the broader views of the Council rather than simply seeing a resolution in favour of the recommendations. In terms of the engagement plan, he asked who was involved in terms of businesses and community group and how those meetings would be publicised. He noted the comment that the governance structure could be reviewed at any point but asked how this would be scrutinised to establish whether it continued to fit with what the Council wanted to achieve. In response, the Leader of the Council advised that he hoped that having local Ward Members on the Assurance Board would give that broader view. He indicated that the Council had made a commitment to a Garden Town in that area long before the elections in May and the time for debate as to whether or not it should go ahead had now passed; it was now about securing quality developments and retaining control to ensure the project's success. This was a starting point and would continue to change and evolve going forward – that was the whole point of engagement. In terms of the make-up of groups, substantial work had been done to obtain feedback from Members and Town and Parish Councils on which community groups should be included and he provided assurance that any which had been missed could still be involved. The Interim Executive Director: Place advised that the community liaison groups list was available for Members to scrutinise and he undertook to ensure that was circulated following the meeting. The first community engagement sessions would be with businesses and the Growth Hub had inputted into that list. He apologised if any had been missed but was confident that most of the people Members would want to see on those groups would be receiving invitations.

55.7 A Member drew attention to Page No. 29 of the report which referred to the membership of the Assurance Board and asked if it would be politically balanced; she supported the view that the three representatives from the Member Engagement Forum should be local Ward Councillors. The Leader of the Council indicated that, following the Executive Committee meeting, an amendment had been made to include the Lead Member for Community within the membership; this was in addition to the Lead Member for Built Environment and the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council. As it currently stood, the make-up was three Liberal Democrats and one Green and therefore was not politically balanced; however, someone had to take ownership of the project and be held accountable for its delivery and he was happy to do that.

- 55.8 In terms of consultation with schools and young people, a Member sought assurance this would go further than the naming competition referenced in Recommendation 13 at Page No. 26 of the report. She noted this recommendation was green and Appendix 3 to the report suggested the workshop format had been finalised so she asked whether this had been properly examined and what had been decided upon in that regard. In response, the Chief Executive clarified that engagement would be with three secondary schools including Alderman Knight School and they could be named in the document. He would be happy to meet with the Member to go through the proposed methodology for engagement and, should the governance structure be approved, this would go to the Assurance Board to be tested. Whilst primary schools were not included, he provided assurance that the views of parents of primary school age children needed to be captured. In response to a query regarding Workshop 1 on Thursday 5 October 2023, as set out in the Cratus Engagement Timetable at Appendix 4 to the report, the Leader of the Council clarified that this was for all Tewkesbury *Borough* Councillors and confirmed that all Members had been invited to attend.
- 55.9 During the debate which ensued, a Member indicated that his concern, as he had raised at the Executive Committee, was with the third recommendation regarding the Council exploring opportunities with developers and landowners within the Garden Town area to align their proposals for development as at no stage had the public been consulted on the Garden Town process and it had not formed any part of the strategic plan – the Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury Strategic and Local Plan approach had a step by step process and it did not form part of that. The SLP was the right place to identify preferred options and that stage was 18 months away; however, this was telling developers there would be a Garden Town in this location which was predetermining the outcome of the SLP in his view. The Garden Town would have a profound impact on the nature of Tewkesbury Borough but that debate had not been had. There was an assumption that the Garden Town must go ahead but he felt people should have the right to influence where they lived – the Garden Town was something being “done to” the public rather than with them and this undermined the democratic process so he would not support the motion. Another Member indicated that she would also be voting against it. In terms of recommendation 3, it was still unclear what the Garden Town area was. Originally, Members had been advised that 10,000 houses were required to achieve Garden Town status but at the last Council meeting it had been suggested that it did not necessarily need to be that many. None of the developers working on sites south of the A46 which had either had been granted planning permission, were being constructed or had already been built were aligned to the Garden Town principles; others which would make-up the Garden Town would not come into being until 2028 at the earliest and she raised concern as to what might happen if the market turned and developers found the demand was no longer there – they had no commitment to wait for the Council to put a Garden Town in place and she did not believe they would wait. As long as the Council did not have a five year housing land supply, planning permission would be granted.
- 55.10 With regard to the threshold of houses to be built in this location to qualify as a Garden Town, a Member indicated that this hinged on the provision of new access onto the M5. The strategic outline business case for the A46 scheme had been submitted to the Department for Transport in January 2020 and three and a half years later that continued to drift on. A report on further funding for the M5 Junction 9/A46 scheme had been considered and approved by Gloucestershire County Council on 27 March 2023 and he had attended a recent Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee where the Executive Director of Gloucestershire County Council had suggested that, if it was not achieved quickly, future funding would not be available/would be withdrawn/would be difficult to achieve. In that scenario there would be no Garden Town and any control over what would be built in that location

would be lost. The Leader of the Council felt this was an excellent point and part of the case for the holistic approach was to work with partners to secure the additional infrastructure needed. He could not speak for what had happened in the past but since taking office a significant amount of work had been done at speed and there was renewed impetus. The Garden Town was part of the basis of funding for transport infrastructure in that area and without that there would be continued piecemeal development without the support needed. In summing up the debate, matters had been raised which had been talked about previously and the principle of continuing with the Garden Town was not what was being considered tonight. The matter being discussed was the approval of a body to have oversight of what was happening; that had been a vital missing component to date and could only be a positive thing in his view. He did not disagree with comments that the Garden Town project had started from the wrong place in terms of community engagement but that could be addressed through the proposed governance structure. Development of some description would happen in this area with or without a Garden Town and, given the lack of a five year housing land supply, planning permission would continue to be granted for development which did not adhere to the Garden Town principles. In his view, this approach needed to be taken to make the best of the situation for residents of Ashchurch and Northway and give them oversight of the process moving forward. He stressed that this would be a valuable start to, not the end of, a journey.

55.11 Having been proposed and seconded, a recorded vote was requested and, upon receiving the appropriate level of support, voting was recorded as follows:

For	Against	Abstain	Absent
N D Adcock	C F Coleman	J P Mills	E M Dimond-Brown
L C Agg	P A Godwin	J K Smith	M A Gore
H J Bowman	E J MacTiernan		C E Mills
T J Budge	M G Sztymiak		E C Skelt
C L J Carter	P W Workman		M R Stewart
C M Cody			
S R Dove			
D W Gray			
S J Hands			
D J Harwood			
A Hegenbarth			
M L Jordan			
G C Madle			
J R Mason			
H C McLain			
P D McLain			

P W Ockelton

K Pervaiz

G M Porter

P E Smith

R J G Smith

R J Stanley

H Sundarajoo

R J E Vines

M J Williams

G I Yates

55.12 Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED

1. That progress against the 17 recommendations from the gateway review report, in particular the new approaches to engagement with communities and robust programme management, be **NOTED**.
2. That the new governance arrangements, including revised programme monitoring and reporting designed to improve visibility and transparency, be **APPROVED**.
3. That it be **AGREED** that the Council, as promoter, explores opportunities with developers and landowners within the Garden Town area to align their proposals for development with the developing vision and aspirations for Tewkesbury Garden Town.

CL.56 STATUTORY APPOINTMENTS - RETURNING OFFICER AND ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER

56.1 The report of the Executive Director: Resources, circulated at Pages No. 37-40, asked Members to ratify the appointment of the Chief Executive as the Returning Officer for Borough Council elections as previously agreed as part of the report taken in closed session at the Council meeting on 24 January 2023 but not specifically included within the public Minutes of such meeting; to appoint the Chief Executive as the Returning Officer for Parish and Town Council elections within the Tewkesbury Borough area; to ratify the decision taken under urgency powers by the Executive Director: Resources, following consultation with (and with support of) the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, to appoint the Chief Executive as the Council's Electoral Registration Officer; and to appoint the Executive Director: Resources, Director: Corporate Resources and Head of Service: Democratic and Electoral Services as Deputy Electoral Registration Officers.

56.2 The Executive Director: Resources advised that Members would recall the report taken to Council in January 2023 seeking approval of the management restructure which proposed the appointment of the Chief Executive as Returning Officer. At that time, no formal recommendation had been made to approve the appointment so confirmation of that was now being sought. In addition, the Council was required to appoint an Electoral Registration Officer and Deputy Electoral Registration

Officers. Prior to this meeting, use had been made of the Council's urgency powers to appoint the Chief Executive as the Electoral Registration Officer in order to mitigate the risk of running the annual canvass which had commenced a few weeks earlier and Members were being asked to ratify that appointment. In addition, appointment of a number of Deputy Electoral Registration Officers was recommended as set out in the report.

56.3 The report recommendation was proposed by the Leader of the Council and seconded by the Lead Member for Finance and Asset Management. A Member noted that the report stated that fees would be met from the election fund and he asked what the fees were. The Executive Director: Resources indicated that he did not know the exact figure and undertook to circulate this information following the meeting. He stressed that all roles were needed to carry out an election and the Returning Officer had a major role in the successful running of an election.

56.4 Upon being put to the vote, it was

- RESOLVED**
1. That the appointment of the Chief Executive as the Returning Officer for Borough Council elections be **RATIFIED**.
 2. That appointment of the Chief Executive as the Returning Officer for Parish and Town Council elections within the Tewkesbury Borough area be **APPROVED**.
 3. That the decision taken under urgency powers to appoint the Chief Executive as the Council's Electoral Registration Officer be **RATIFIED**.
 4. That appointment of the Executive Director: Resources, Director: Corporate Resources and Head of Service: Democratic and Electoral Services as Deputy Electoral Registration Officers be **APPROVED**.

CL.57 NOTICE OF MOTION: FOSTERING

57.1 The Mayor referred to the Notice of Motion, as set out on the Agenda and indicated that, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, it was necessary for the Council firstly to decide whether it wished to debate and determine the Motion at this evening's meeting, or whether it wished to refer the Motion, without debate, to a Committee for consideration with authority either to make a decision on the matter or bring a recommendation back to Council.

57.2 Upon being proposed and seconded, it was

- RESOLVED** That the Motion would be discussed at this evening's Council meeting.

57.3 The Motion, as set out on the Agenda, was proposed and seconded. The proposer of the Motion advised that this Motion had also been considered by Gloucestershire County Council earlier this month and he felt that it was necessary to take a proactive approach to promoting fostering and to put on record the Council's appreciation for the hard work of foster carers and what a difference they made to children's lives. As representatives of the community, it was necessary to ensure that Councillors had all of the necessary resources available to help.

57.4 The seconder of the Motion indicated there was a crisis in Gloucestershire with children being moved outside of the county to Worcestershire due to a lack of foster carers. This had a significant impact on children who had to change schools and move away from friends and family and support networks. He felt that anything which could be done to keep them within the county should be done and that Gloucestershire County Council colleagues should be supported to ensure that foster carers were respected and valued. The Council could play its part by

promoting fostering on social media and acting as a facilitator in the community to encourage as many people as possible to come forward as foster carers.

57.5 During the discussion which ensued, a Member questioned what financial support was available for foster carers and the seconder of the Motion indicated that was not relevant to this particular Motion which was about doing as much as possible to promote fostering on behalf of the County Council; however, whilst foster carers did receive a full package of support, which contained elements for the foster carer themselves and to meet the needs of the child, it was not a job which was done for financial gain. A Member sought clarification as to whether “adding a section on foster recruitment to our local newsletters/updates if this is appropriate, and not attached to any party-political messaging” was encouraging Borough Councillors to include information in leaflets or suggesting that it was not done on the basis that it was a political newsletter. In response, the proposer of the motion confirmed it was the former as the intention was to encourage anyone to actively promote fostering in any material, whether that be leaflets or online; rather than making a political point, the purpose of the Motion was about coming together to do something positive and promote a worthwhile service. Another Member expressed the view that this was something which Borough Councillors should be doing in any case and suggested there was other work being done by the County Council which they should also be promoting including that in relation to homelessness and the environment. The proposer of the Motion agreed and encouraged other Members to submit Motions for various things they wanted to promote and to speak to Officers and Members about including this in communications. A Member indicated that she wholeheartedly supported the Motion and, in terms of sharing information, that was something which some Members were already doing and there was nothing preventing them from doing that. Another Member felt this was an excellent Motion - he had come across fostering as a member of the adoption panel at the County Council and had seen first hand the incredible work foster carers could do and the impact that had on outcomes for children. He indicated that the question of financial support was worth thinking about as it could be a potential barrier. There was a shortage of foster carers in the county and he wondered whether the Motion should be further extended to search for prospective adopters.

57.6 In summing up, the seconder of the Motion indicated that he had been told that capacity was beyond 90% in Gloucestershire, hence why there was a crisis, and it was incumbent upon everyone to support the County Council in encouraging fostering. He felt that adoption should potentially be looked at separately. The proposer of the Motion indicated that this was not a difficult thing to achieve and could be as simple as putting information on the Council website to signpost. Ultimately, the fantastic work done by foster carers needed to be applauded and they should be helped in any way possible.

57.7 Accordingly, the Motion was proposed and seconded as set out on the Agenda and, upon being put to the vote it was

RESOLVED

1. That it be **NOTED** that:

- there are over 800 children in the care of the County Council, and approximately 250 in-house foster carers in Gloucestershire - but many more carers are needed to meet growing demand;
- nationally and locally, recruiting and retaining sufficient foster carers is an enormous challenge;
- that all elected Members, as representatives of our communities, should be encouraged to help promote fostering and support potential carers to come forward so that we can create a resilient, diverse, and caring foster

parent network that can meet the needs of all children in our care; and

- whilst the responsibility for recruiting and retaining foster carers sits with the County Council, Tewkesbury Borough Council can assist by signposting prospective carers to where they can find relevant information, including a dedicated page on the Borough Council's website.

2. That the Council supports Borough Councillors in promoting fostering and encouraging them to begin sharing information on foster carer recruitment across all networks to ensure the message gets out boroughwide across a variety of platforms. This can include:

- sharing information about foster recruitment on social media;
- adding a link to <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fostering/> onto email signatures;
- adding a section on foster recruitment to our local newsletters/updates if this is appropriate, and not attached to any party-political messaging; and
- sharing information on foster recruitment with Parish and Town councils, local schools and community organisations so that these groups can also help to disseminate information.

CL.58 SEPARATE BUSINESS

58.1 The Mayor proposed, and it was

RESOLVED That, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely discussion of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

CL.59 SEPARATE MINUTES

59.1 The separate Minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2023, copies of which had been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

The meeting closed at 7:20 pm

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Council held at the Council Offices,
Gloucester Road, Tewkesbury on Tuesday, 7 November 2023 commencing at
6:00 pm**

Present:

The Worshipful the Mayor
Deputy Mayor

Councillor I Yates
Councillor P N Workman

and Councillors:

H J Bowman, C M Cody, S R Dove, P A Godwin, M A Gore, D W Gray, S Hands, M L Jordan,
E J MacTiernan, J R Mason, H C McLain, P W Ockelton, E C Skelt, J K Smith, R J Stanley,
H Sundarajoo and R J E Vines

CL.60 ANNOUNCEMENTS

60.1 The evacuation procedure, as noted on the Agenda, was advised to those present.

CL.61 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

61.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L A Agg, N D Adcock, E M Dimond-Brown, A Hegenbarth, G C Madle, P D McLain, K Pervaiz, G M Porter, P D Smith, M R Stewart and M G Sztymiak.

CL.62 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

62.1 The Committee's attention was drawn to the Tewkesbury Borough Code of Conduct which was adopted by the Council on 24 January 2023 and took effect on 1 February 2023.

62.2 There were no declarations made on this occasion.

CL.63 HONORARY ALDERMEN

63.1 The Mayor thanked those present for attending the meeting to witness the conferring of the Office of Honorary Alderman on eight former Councillors. He expressed what an honour and privilege it was to have the opportunity to bestow such a title upon those that had done so much for the Borough during their time in Office. The Mayor indicated that, unfortunately, one of those being honoured, Gill Blackwell, was unable to attend the meeting that evening but confirmed that her certificate and gifts would be delivered to her after the meeting.

- 63.2 Councillor Stanley proposed that, in recognition of their public service to their community and the borough, the under-mentioned persons have conferred upon them the title of Honorary Aldermen:
- Rob Bird
Gill Blackwell
Mike Dean
John Evetts
John Murphy
Andrew Reece
Vernon Smith
Philip Surman
- 63.3 The motion was seconded by Councillor Mason who indicated that it was with great pleasure that he was seconding the honouring of the eight past Members with the Office of Honorary Alderman.
- 63.4 Upon being put to the vote, the Motion was carried and each new Honorary Alderman in attendance was presented with their certificate and gifts to mark the occasion.
- 63.5 Councillor Mason expressed what a pleasure it was for him to speak in support of Rob Bird. Rob had been elected in 2011 and represented the Cleeve West Ward. Probably his greatest challenge during his time as Leader of the Council was the COVID-19 pandemic which had brought with it a great amount of uncertainty and apprehensiveness which he had navigated with integrity. Rob was not afraid to challenge where necessary and had stood his ground to achieve the best outcomes for Tewkesbury Borough. He had represented the Council brilliantly during his time as Leader and it was a great pleasure to see him honoured with this title. On receiving his certificate, Honorary Alderman Rob Bird indicated how appreciative he was to receive this honour. There were many reasons why he had been proud to be part of Tewkesbury Borough Council - he had always thought it was very professional and he was proud to be part of that professional approach to doing what was right for the residents it served. Tewkesbury Borough Council was always ahead of the curve which had been particularly evident during the COVID-19 pandemic when it had become clear that the authority was already doing the work being discussed by others. The professionalism of Officers had been backed up with the commitment and pragmatism of its elected Members who always worked together effectively when necessary and he hoped that would continue.
- 63.6 Councillor Gore expressed how delighted she was to support Gill Blackwell in becoming an Honorary Alderman. Gill had served on the Council from May 2011 representing Churchdown Brookfield with Hucclecote Ward and held the office of Mayor twice during her 12 years of service, raising funds for local charities. She was a fantastic ambassador as Mayor of Tewkesbury Borough, even when her term of office was extended due to the COVID-19 pandemic which demanded an even higher degree of commitment. Gill had sat on a number of Committees over the years and held Lead Member roles. She had always battled for her community and the borough as a whole. Gill was a very kind and thoughtful lady who was always on hand to help any of her fellow Councillors and, from a personal perspective, she had offered her great support over the years for which she was very grateful.
- 63.7 Councillor Mason expressed what a great pleasure it was to speak in support of Mike Dean. Mike had first been elected in 2011 representing Cleeve Hill Ward and had served on several Committees. He had been Mayor during 2014/15 which he had very much enjoyed. Mike was forward thinking and, as the Lead Member for Customer Focus had been an early champion for e-government. The Council's

position in that regard was in no small part down to Mike and his determination to promote it as the way forward for the authority. This was a well deserved honour and he wished him all the best. On receiving his certificate, Honorary Alderman Mike Dean indicated that he had enjoyed his time at Tewkesbury Borough Council and it was an absolute pleasure to receive this honour tonight.

- 63.8 Councillor Gore indicated that she was delighted to be able to speak in support of John Evetts. John had served on the Council from May 1991 representing Isbourne Ward and had sat on many Committees over those 32 years which had included chairing the Standards Committee. He had also chaired Planning Committee for a number of years and his vast amount of knowledge and experience of architecture had always made for interesting journeys across the borough on Planning Committee Site Visits. His ability to chair Planning Committee meetings was second to none - he was a very strong chair with fantastic communication and leadership skills who ensured high standards were maintained. She personally had the privilege of joining John in Isbourne Ward when it became a two Member Ward in 2019 and she thanked him for his help and support during that time. John's service and dedication to his role and his Ward over the last 32 years had been exemplary and the award of Honorary Alderman was thoroughly deserved. On receiving his certificate, Honorary Alderman John Evetts shared an anecdote from his time as Chair of the Planning Committee and offered his sincere thanks to the Council for this honour, which he would treasure.
- 63.9 Councillor Mason expressed his pleasure in speaking in support of John Murphy. John was one of three Members elected to represent Winchcombe Ward in 2019 and had done an awful lot during his relatively short time as a Borough Councillor including chairing the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to which he had dedicated a lot of time, sitting on a number of Working Groups and representing the borough as Mayor in 2022/23. John was greatly missed and was thoroughly deserving of this award. On receiving his certificate, Honorary Alderman John Murphy expressed his delight at seeing so many familiar faces this evening. He had a terrific time as a Borough Councillor and missed it very much.
- 63.10 Councillor Jill Smith indicated that she was pleased to speak in support of Andrew Reece. Andrew had served on the Council from May 2015 and represented Cleeve St Michael's Ward. He had been Deputy Mayor in 2019, going on to be Mayor in 2021. During his time as a Borough Councillor he had been Support Member for Finance and Asset Management and had sat on Committees such as Planning and Licensing as well as representing the Council on various outside bodies. Andrew had always met his duties with enthusiasm and humour and had been a wonderful ambassador for the borough raising funds for charities including Scoo-B-Doo and the Severn Area Rescue Association whilst Mayor. She was delighted that he was receiving the well-deserved title of Honorary Alderman for Tewkesbury Borough. On receiving his certificate, Honorary Alderman Andrew Reece indicated that he was still adjusting to not been a Borough Councillor and, although there were some benefits, he was missing the friendship and fun. He had particularly enjoyed his time on Planning Committee and as Support Member for Finance and Asset Management. He wished the Borough Council luck for the future and thanked everyone for this great honour.
- 63.11 Councillor Vines expressed his pleasure at speaking in support of Vernon Smith. Vernon had been elected in May 2011 representing the Tewkesbury area which he had served brilliantly during his time as a Borough Councillor – he was known and approachable to residents and always willing to help. Vernon had been Chair of Audit and Governance Committee and was an expert on flooding, having suffered personally in 2007. He continued to serve as a County Councillor and was the 'go to' for highway matters in that role. This award was hugely deserved and he wished him well. On receiving his certificate, Honorary Alderman Vernon Smith thanked those present for the tremendous honour which he appreciated very much. He

echoed previous comments regarding the professionalism of the Borough Council and had greatly enjoyed his time with the authority. He was delighted to see some old faces this evening, but also many new ones, and his one piece of advice to them all was to listen to one another and work together to achieve the best outcomes for the communities they served. Tewkesbury Borough was a fantastic place to live and he was proud to have served as a Borough Councillor.

- 63.12 Councillor Vines expressed what a pleasure it was to speak in support of Philip Surman. Philip had represented Shurdington for 22 years and was one of the best Councillors he could recall. He was a man of few words but full of wisdom – he did not feel the need to speak on every subject so, when he did, it was relevant and carried a lot of weight. Anyone looking for an example of how to be a proper Councillor could look to Philip as a role model. Philip had been elected as Mayor in 2012 which had coincided with the late Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics being hosted in London so he had been fortunate enough to represent Tewkesbury Borough at additional functions in relation to those events. He had spent a lot of his time on Planning Committee but his real gift was as Chair of Standards Committee which had benefited from his integrity and knowledge. He admired and missed him greatly – he was a terrific Councillor and friend and this was a well-deserved award. On receiving his certificate, Honorary Alderman Philip Surman indicated that he could honestly say that he had thoroughly enjoyed his 22 years as a Borough Councillor. He had made good friends and acquaintances during that time and had taken away many fond memories. He made particular mention to the Democratic Services team who had been a constant support to him over that period.
- 63.13 At the conclusion of the presentations, the Mayor congratulated the new Honorary Aldermen and indicated that, following the close of the meeting, all were welcome to join him at a reception in the foyer.

The meeting closed at 6:35 pm

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Minutes of An Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held at the Council Offices,
Gloucester Road, Tewkesbury on Tuesday, 21 November 2023 commencing at
6:00 pm**

Present:

The Worshipful the Mayor
Deputy Mayor

Councillor I Yates
Councillor P N Workman

and Councillors:

N D Adcock, C Agg, H J Bowman, T J Budge, C L J Carter, C M Cody, C F Coleman,
M Dimond-Brown, S R Dove, P A Godwin, M A Gore, D W Gray, S Hands, D J Harwood,
A Hegenbarth, M L Jordan, E J MacTiernan, G C Madle, J R Mason, C E Mills, J P Mills,
K Pervaiz, E C Skelt, J K Smith, R J G Smith, R J Stanley, H Sundarajoo, M G Sztymiak,
R J E Vines and M J Williams

CL.64 ANNOUNCEMENTS

64.1 The evacuation procedure, as noted on the Agenda, was advised to those present.

CL.65 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

65.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H C McLain, P D McLain,
P W Ockelton, G M Porter, P Smith and M R Stewart.

CL.66 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

66.1 The Committee's attention was drawn to the Tewkesbury Borough Code of Conduct
which was adopted by the Council on 24 January 2023 and took effect on 1
February 2023.

66.2 There were no declarations made on this occasion.

CL.67 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury Strategic and Local Plan Public Consultation (Regulation 18)

67.1 At its meeting on 9 November 2023, the Executive Committee considered the
Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury Strategic and Local Plan Public
Consultation Document and recommended to Council that it be approved for
consultation under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local
Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and that authority be delegated to the Chief
Executive, in consultation with the Lead Member for Built Environment, to prepare
diagrams illustrating the general location of development options for inclusion in the
consultation document, and to make any other necessary minor amendments,
corrections or additions to the document prior to publication for consultation.

67.2 The report which was considered by the Executive Committee had been circulated
with the Agenda for the current meeting at Pages No. 1-47.

- 67.3 In proposing the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Lead Member for Built Environment advised that as Members were aware, the Council had agreed to formally work together with Cheltenham Borough and Gloucester City Councils on a Strategic and Local Plan (SLP). This was the start of a long journey and, for now, it was not at the stage of needing to prioritise anything. The formative Regulation 18 stage was about asking people what they thought the plan should contain and obtaining views on broad policy options and issues – it was about big questions such as how and where to respond to the needs of a growing population and how to address climate change and nature recovery through the planning system. It was therefore proposed that the draft document, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be published to form the basis of a wide ranging round of public consultation and engagement starting in December. This included a draft vision and strategic objectives which had been discussed at various points with Tewkesbury Borough Council's Planning Policy Reference Panel, and equivalent Member panels across the partnership. It also set out a range of issues and posed 31 questions to start the conversation with communities and the development industry. The Planning Policy Reference Panel recently met jointly with the Member Working Groups from Cheltenham Borough and Gloucester City Councils and a large number of helpful comments and suggestions were made on an earlier version of the document. To a large extent, these were reflected in the revised draft consultation document set out in the Council papers. She reiterated that one of the recommendations was that the document be further refined before being published in December. This would include grammatical and Plain English improvements but also conceptual diagrams, which were currently being drawn up, and would attempt to generally illustrate – without showing site details – the broad patterns of development that would arise from the various growth options described in the document. Gloucester City Council had approved the document and Cheltenham Borough Council would be considering the document at its Council meeting on 11 December 2023. It was proposed to launch the consultation immediately after to ensure that documents were in the public domain before Christmas, with active engagement commencing early in 2024. It was proposed that the consultation should be for no less than eight weeks in part to recognise the interruption of the Christmas break. In terms of the approach to consultation - which would be an important part of this process, as had previously been discussed by the Committee - although there were minimum standards in the Statement of Community Involvement, it was intended to be ambitious and creative and work was underway to reach as many people as possible, including young people who traditionally did not take part in such consultations; this would include a mixture of face to face, digital and targeted methods. The proposed approach to consultation would be discussed at another joint Planning Policy Reference Panel meeting on 30 November 2023 which would also provide an opportunity to review first drafts of the conceptual diagrams. This marked the early stages of the SLP, and it was recommended that Council resolve that the document at Appendix 1 be published for consultation; as a number of minor amendments and corrections would be needed, including the diagrams and general graphic design work, delegated authority was also being sought for these to be made by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Lead Member for Built Environment prior to issuing the final document. The proposal was seconded by the Leader of the Council as Chair of the Executive Committee.
- 67.4 A Member thanked Officers for the hard work which had gone into the document which had been changed considerably since it was considered by the Planning Policy Reference Panel. She felt that any amendments to make it more accessible to those without a planning background would be important in terms of engaging as many people as possible. With regard to the 'introduction and context' and 'what has happened so far' sections of the report, she noted that reference to the 2018 consultation in respect of the review of the Joint Core Strategy had been removed and asked the reasoning for that. The Interim Planning Policy Manager advised that the document had been streamlined as much as possible and, on reflection, it had

been considered that this was a different plan and not a continuation of the same regulatory process in 2018, albeit that some of those responses would be relevant. There was no reason why the previous issues and options document could not be referenced but this was a very different concept which needed to be expressed in as simple terms as possible and cross-referencing to the previous document was not considered to add to the context and importance of this one; notwithstanding this, it could be included if Members felt it was particularly necessary. The Member expressed the view that, if residents had taken time to respond to the previous consultation, it was important they knew their responses were continuing to be considered so it was something she would like to see included. The Member went on to draw attention to scenario four in relation to new strategic settlements - she considered this to be fundamental but it had not been discussed by Planning Policy Reference Panel and she raised concern that the document mentioned specific places, such as Boddington and the Forest of Dean between Churcham and Highnam, which were not included in the original document so she sought clarification as to where they had come from. In response, the Interim Planning Policy Manager advised that these had been specifically noted as matter of fact in response to the ongoing call for sites exercise. The Council had a duty to invite land owners, developers and site owners to submit expression of interest for allocations and to plan on an ongoing basis and it was felt that it would become slightly less of an abstract concept to include those which had been submitted, and would be assessed in terms of the background evidence, to assist consultees. The Member noted that another location on the boundary of Tewkesbury itself on the A38 had also been submitted prior to this and she asked why that was not referenced. The Interim Planning Policy Manager felt this was a valid point but explained that the option the Member had referenced to the southwest of Tewkesbury would not be classed as a new strategic settlement based on figures, rather it would be a very significant extension which would be captured under one of the other options via the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) work. He reiterated that the different development scenarios were constructs to enable a conversation with communities and infrastructure providers and anyone else with an interest in the plan, it was not a technical exercise of fitting everything into one box. As the report explained, none of the six growth scenarios would stand up as a development option in isolation, it would inevitably be a blend of those. In relation to the draft vision, the Member indicated that the Planning Policy Reference Panel had considered this did not reflect aspirations for housing and employment across the borough in rural locations and she asked whether the draft vision would be at the forefront of the document or whether it would be a supplementary document for the borough plan strand moving forward. The Interim Planning Policy Manager advised that a draft vision had been included at this stage to give some shape to the consultation, albeit no decisions were being made. Rural concerns were encapsulated to a degree in the draft vision but he could see no reason why, when it came to the draft plan proper to address specific Tewkesbury Borough matters, that section could not have its own vision.

- 67.5 A Member felt it was a very good document and he commended those Officers involved in its production; however, he raised concern that Members had not been presented with the maps and diagrams which would be included within it and he sought assurance they would be of a very illustrative nature. The Leader of the Council advised that this issue had been raised a number of times in meetings by himself and the Lead Member for Built Environment and was something that all three authorities were very mindful of. The Executive Committee had also discussed this matter and made an amendment to the recommendation to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, rather than the Associate Director: Planning, in consultation with the Lead Member for Built Environment, to prepare those diagrams which were due to be considered by the Chief Executives and Leaders of the three authorities at their next meeting, prior to consultation. The Member went on to indicate that it had been recognised that consultation in relation to Tewkesbury

Garden Town had not been successful and he wanted to ensure that lessons had been learnt from that so asked what was considered 'good enough' in terms of the consultation process and responses received and what was being done differently this time to ensure that consultation was as wide as possible. In response, the Lead Member for Built Environment advised that it was intended to use a range of consultation methods to ensure no sector was excluded and there would be an emphasis on communities with young people, as they would inherit the work being done today. The Member expressed the view that the engagement plan was as important as the document itself but he had not seen one for this particular document. The Leader of the Council advised that a Statement of Community Involvement preceded this document, which included a lot around ensuring engagement was inclusive, and he provided assurance that lessons were being learnt from previous consultations. The Interim Planning Policy Manager agreed that the manner of consultation was as important as the document being consulted on and reiterated that the Statement of Community involvement set out the general intentions regarding consultation but a more detailed and specific consultation strategy was being worked on and would be initially discussed at the joint Planning Policy Reference Panel on 30 November 2023. There would be a focus on active engagement with an intention to talk to as many people as possible, making use of communications specialists and new technologies available – importantly, this was the start of a journey so this consultation would not be a one-off and there would be ongoing conversations well beyond this current stage.

- 67.6 With regard to Page No. 42 of the report, and specifically the reference to the potential option for new strategic settlement straddling the boundary of Tewkesbury Borough and the Forest of Dean between Churcham and Highnam, a Member asked how it could be ensured that the development would be allocated to Tewkesbury Borough Council's housing numbers and not absorbed into the Forest of Dean. In response, the Interim Planning Policy Manager advised that it was not at that stage yet - the general location had been identified on the basis of what had been submitted to Tewkesbury Borough Council as an option for consideration. Another Member questioned whether Cheltenham Borough and Gloucester City Councils had Statements of Community Involvement and if there was any conflict with Tewkesbury Borough Council's statement. The Interim Planning Policy Manager confirmed that all three authorities had a Statement of Community Involvement which were broadly consistent, albeit with different emphases.
- 67.7 With regard to climate change mitigation and adaption, a Member indicated that, once adopted, the SLP would be in place for a considerable amount of time and it would be necessary to quickly adapt to a new hotter world so he asked whether the document would enable young people in Tewkesbury Borough to have successful lives beyond that. The Interim Planning Policy Manager indicated that this was a very big question and it was necessary to be mindful that the planning system could only play a set role in administering climate change and nature regulations; however, clearly it was an important tool and there was a statutory requirement for the plan to address climate change and its causes and put in place measures to mitigate for it. In accordance with the Environment Act 2021, developers would be required to deliver 10% Biodiversity Net Gain from January 2024 and there was no doubt that climate change mitigation would form an important part of consultation and engagement over the coming months. The Member questioned whether the SLP would remain a live document going forward and was advised that legislation expected all local planning authorities to prepare local plans; this was a long and difficult process which required widespread public consultation and was based on extensive evidence, tested by a government Inspector, so everything in the plan must be justified. Once adopted, the plan carried a particular status in decision-making on planning applications. Clearly things changed over time and a plan should be reviewed every five years but, once adopted, it had a particular status in law.

- 67.8 A Member noted the plans to consult widely and asked what would constitute a successful consultation in terms of number of responses, how long it would be before Members could see the data and how that would be divided so that it could be demonstrated that local communities were represented. The Lead Member for Built Environment indicated that it was very difficult to assess what would be a successful response but she provided assurance that everything possible would be done to ensure that extensive feedback was captured. The Interim Planning Policy Manager advised that, ultimately, success would be tested by Members in terms of what they thought when the consultation responses were reported and whether it had met the Statement of Community Involvement and the engagement plan. If it was considered that a particular section of the community was unrepresented in the responses, it would be possible to reflect on that during the consultation process. The Council had invested in a new consultation platform which would be much more effective than previous methods and there was an expectation to bring back to Members as soon as possible what had been learned from the consultation in order to debate what that meant and reflect on how to move forward. The Member queried whether it was possible to obtain a geographical breakdown of respondents and confirmation was provided that Officers would be looking to provide some kind of indication as to the source of comments. The Lead Member for Built Environment stressed the importance of all Members engaging with residents at the appropriate time to actively participate in the consultation and helping and advising them to ensure they put their views forward. Another Member raised concern that, from the questions posed by the consultation document, it would be difficult to gain an understanding of the strength of feeling as there was no quantitative measure. He would like to see a data set which could be split into categories of people, where they lived, age etc. to understand who was saying what; without that it would be difficult to draw any firm conclusions. The Lead Member for Built Environment felt that was a valid point and confirmed that the system which would be used could produce those specific results.
- 67.9 During the debate which ensued, a Member indicated that there had been a full discussion on this report when it had been considered by the Executive Committee and there had been a lot of useful observations; however, he was concerned that comments made today seemed to suggest that success would be reviewed once the consultation had finished and he was strongly of the view that review of take-up and responses should be ongoing in order for the strategy to be changed if necessary. In terms of engagement with Cheltenham Borough and Gloucester City Councils, he was keen to ensure that all three authorities had full review of one another's meetings in order to reflect on what had been discussed and he sought assurance that would happen. He was conscious that the public had not had sight of the Minutes from the Executive Committee on 9 November in advance of this meeting which would demonstrate that the report had been considered in detail. In response, the Leader of the Council provided assurance that Officers would not be waiting until the consultation closed to review the process and, if they could see that responses were not being received from a certain demographic or locality, that would be addressed. The Monitoring Officer advised that the Minutes of the Executive Committee were very thorough and reflective of the debate at that meeting. The Minutes were now available publicly via the Council's website which was in accordance with the usual timescales. The Member indicated that his main concern was ensuring that the other two authorities were not simply told that the document had been approved without any knowledge of the debate that had taken place and the points which had been raised. The Chief Executive advised that he was the SRO for the programme and undertook to circulate a report pulling together all of the issues discussed by the three authorities.

- 67.10 With regard to Page No. 24, Paragraph 4.13 of the report in respect of policy actions regarding climate change which might be considered through the SLP, a Member indicated that she was aware of one Council which had taken the decision that all new builds would be fossil fuel free and asked whether this should be posed as a question in the consultation to establish how residents felt in relation to that. Climate change was at the forefront of minds across the country and it was important to acknowledge this. The Leader of the Council indicated that he was not opposed to including this if Officers were satisfied the correct wording could be included; as alluded to earlier in the meeting, it could have been set out as a neutral document without any suggestions but that would be difficult for residents to respond to, however, he was keen to ensure it did not go too far in terms of steering them in a particular direction. The Interim Planning Policy Manager advised that Page No. 25 of the report included more general questions about how the SLP could most effectively address the impacts of climate change and about the measures and standards the SLP should introduce in respect of construction and operation of new buildings; he reiterated that the document was not intended to be prescriptive. It was acknowledged that this document was only one part of the consultation process and there would be other mechanisms for suggestions and thoughts to be raised.
- 67.11 A Member indicated that, at the Executive Committee meeting, he had made the point that the consultation should not exclude schools, colleges and universities through its timing; December and January were not particularly good months for engagement due to holidays and he suggested the joint Planning Policy Reference Panel meeting discuss how the three authorities could work together to engage with those bodies. The Lead Member for Built Environment indicated this could be taken on board at that meeting.
- 67.12 Upon being put to the vote, it was
- RESOLVED**
1. That the Strategic and Local Plan Consultation Document (Appendix 1) be **APPROVED** for consultation under Regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.
 2. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Lead Member for Built Environment, to prepare diagrams illustrating the general location of development options for inclusion in the consultation document, and to make any other necessary minor amendments, corrections and additions to the document prior to publication for consultation.

Tewkesbury Interim Housing Position Statement

- 67.13 At its meeting on 9 November 2023, the Executive Committee considered the Tewkesbury Interim Housing Position Statement and recommended to Council that it be approved and published to explain the Council's approach to decision-making on planning applications involving the provision of housing and that authority be delegated to the Associate Director: Planning, in consultation with the Lead Member for Built Environment, to make any necessary minor amendments and corrections to the document prior to publication.
- 67.14 The report which was considered by the Executive Committee had been circulated with the Agenda for the current meeting at Pages No. 48-60.

67.15 In proposing the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Lead Member for Built Environment advised that this Agenda item was in response to the recent Planning Inspectorate appeal decisions that confirmed Tewkesbury Borough Council was now unable to demonstrate a five year housing land supply. Members had previously received informal briefings on this issue, including discussing the consequences of applying the “tilted balance” to planning decisions on housing applications, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) rules; however, this was a highly technical area and one which often gave rise to confusion and concern amongst communities, members of the public and even some developers. The situation was often mischaracterised as one where the local plan policies were out of date and planning permissions for housing must be granted but the truth was much more measured. The NPPF certainly introduced a presumption in favour of granting sustainable development for many - although not all - housing applications as a result of the shortfall. This meant that policies on matters such as settlement boundaries were to be treated as out-of-date and the overall outcome must be that more approvals were given in order to generate the deliverable sites to make up the shortfall. Nevertheless, the starting point for making decisions was the policies in the development plan, many of which remained fully up to date. In judging whether in an individual case the adverse impacts would “significantly and demonstrably” outweigh the benefits, it was still necessary to consider the Joint Core Strategy, Tewkesbury Borough Plan and relevant Neighbourhood Development Plan policies which were an important part of that balancing exercise. This meant looking carefully at important matters such as highway safety, unneighbourly amenity impacts, design and layout, accessibility, harm to valued landscapes and so on. With all this in mind, it was considered it would be helpful to publish an Interim Housing Position Statement clarifying the position in some detail, and this was set out at Appendix 1 to the report. One of its purposes was to confirm there was a housing shortfall, and to acknowledge the need to remedy that, but it also highlighted the types of location and housing schemes which were more likely to be considered acceptable by the Council, and by appeal Inspectors, in making up the shortfall under the tilted balance. The document also pointed to actions the Council could take, and encourage others to take, in approving and building out suitable housing schemes as quickly and effectively as possible, for example, encouraging early engagement with Parish Councils and seeking pre-application advice from Planning Officers as well as considering attaching conditions to planning permissions requiring development to be commenced more quickly than the standard timescales. It was important to be clear that the document was not in any way new “policy”; instead, it succinctly clarified the existing policy and practice and provided reassurance to communities that good quality development remained the expected standard at all times. The Executive Committee had considered this matter on 9 November 2023 and recommended to Council that the document be approved and published. As it was not policy, formal public consultation was not necessary; however, a briefing for Town and Parish Councils, chaired by the Leader of the Council, had been convened following the Executive Committee meeting which had been well attended and included representatives from Tewkesbury Town Council and 14 Parish Councils. A Teams briefing had also been held for Tewkesbury Borough Councillors on 14 November 2023. In terms of the main points raised at the Town and Parish Council briefing, the overall sentiment was concern that the five year housing land supply shortage had arisen in the first place, which many felt left local communities vulnerable to speculative development, and that every effort should be made to prepare a local plan with up-to-date housing figures and allocations as quickly as possible. Notwithstanding these concerns, there was general support for the preparation of the Interim Housing Position Statement to the extent that it reaffirmed the importance of good planning principles. The importance of the local planning authority keeping Town and Parish Councils updated on the housing land

supply position in the future was also highlighted. Specific concerns were raised that 'deliverable' sites were likely to be smaller and located on the edges of villages which had already seen applications for residential development granted, especially on appeal. In particular, a request was made for an interim policy which sought to place a numeric cap on growth in individual settlements. Officers had advised that an interim policy setting arbitrary limits would not be supported by national planning policies and would not carry meaningful weight outside the development plan process; that the Interim Housing Position Statement would be the best way to prioritise suitable housing developments in restoring supply, factoring in any adverse effects of development - in some cases, this would almost certainly involve the early development of some sites which would otherwise have been allocated in a local plan in any event; nonetheless, preparation of the Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury Strategic and Local Plan (SLP) was a priority to which additional resources had been allocated; adoption of the SLP would not be a pre-requisite for restoration of a five year supply shortfall – this would be achieved through the grant of appropriate planning permissions; and, sites only contributed to five year supply if they were realistically 'deliverable' according to the national planning rules - longer term strategic sites, such as the Tewkesbury Garden Town, would be unlikely to be the main source of remedying the immediate housing shortfall. Some Parish Councils had suggested the establishment of a Service Village Forum in order to be kept up to date and enable ongoing liaison between relevant parishes and the Leader of the Council agreed that would be investigated. More generally, other planning issues were raised and discussed around planning in Tewkesbury Borough including, amongst others, neighbourhood planning, historic appeal decisions and the Joint Core Strategy process. In seconding the report, the Leader of the Council, as Chair of the Executive Committee, thanked Officers for producing the Interim Housing Position Statement and pointed out this was not a requirement but was something they had recommended in light of the current five year housing land supply position in terms of providing clarity for residents and those submitting planning applications.

- 67.16 A Member noted that the report referenced a 3.24 year housing land supply and he sought clarification as to what that meant in terms of numbers and how many were needed for a five year supply. In response, the Interim Planning Policy Manager advised that housing land supply figures were deceptively complex and it would be unhelpful to talk about speculative numbers but the Council published an annual report on its housing land supply position which included the various commitments, the most recent of which was dated 1 April 2023 and was available on the Council's website. The authority had now been moved to the government's standard method for calculating annual housing land supply requirements – the annual supply in the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) was in the order of 495 houses whereas the standard method was somewhat higher at around 570.
- 67.17 Another Member indicated that the Council had been given very different figures regarding its housing land supply in the past – at one point Members had been told there was a supply of almost six years. Page No. 51, Paragraph 5.1 of the report stated that the Interim Housing Position Statement would be subject to periodic monitoring at least annually and she asked how that assessment would be carried out and at what point a house was considered to have been delivered. She also questioned whether an annual assessment was sufficient as she felt the Planning Committee in particular would require this information on a more regular basis. In response, the Interim Planning Policy Manager reiterated that there were complex judgements involved in calculating the five year housing land supply and the exercise was subject to constant scrutiny and criticism by applicants. For Tewkesbury Borough Council, and Cheltenham Borough and Gloucester City Councils, the nature of the JCS and fact there were cross-boundary supply issues, when the plan was five years old and the government required that calculations be moved to the standard method, questions had been raised to which there was no

clear answer - the Council had taken legal advice in relation to that which had been contested which was why at one point it had rightly been claimed there was a housing land supply in the region of six years but the Inspector had come to a different view. He could not emphasise enough what an enormous effort was involved in relation to the annual monitoring exercise which was a snapshot in time to understand at that point what commitments had been made in terms of unimplemented planning permissions for housing and, compared to the previous period, the number of houses which had been completed or commenced in terms of being under construction. This involved looking at Council Tax or Building Control records but, to a large extent, was reliant on people physically going out to count them. This information was collated via the Uniform system and was used to take a view on which of the sites had not yet been built out but were likely, under the government definition of deliverable housing, of having a realistic prospect of being built out within the coming five years. Again, this was a judgement, but Officers did draw on the submission of applicants or prospective developers' stated intentions. The position was only accurate at the time it was calculated – it was not simply a case of including any new planning permissions granted to add to the supply picture as that would not reflect those which had expired or where the commitment was no longer there. On that basis, an annual assessment was reasonable and manageable; whilst it was possible to give indicative figures in terms of planning permissions being granted and decisions being made by Planning Committee to get an idea as to whether it was going in the right direction, it would not be possible to give definite updated numbers. The Member noted that reference had been made to using Council Tax records for the assessment but she indicated this would only be relevant once people had moved and did not reflect those houses which had been completed but not sold. She asked if there was a target date in mind for when a five year housing land supply could be expected. In response, the Chief Executive advised that consideration was being given as to what meaningful information could be taken to Planning Committee – this would not be a running total but would give a sense of the direction of travel which would be helpful to Members. In terms of the target date, whilst work could be done in respect of the local plan when sites were identified, the rest was largely outside of the Council's control and in the hands of developers.

- 67.18 A Member asked what was being done to provide assistance with Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDP) which were out of date given that there was a fallback position for a three year housing land supply to be applicable when NDPs met certain criteria. In response, the Associate Director: Planning advised that the Member was correct in that, if NDPs were in place, up-to-date and allocated land for housing development then a three year housing land supply applied; however, many NDPs did not directly allocate land for housing. Local planning authorities had a duty to support Town and Parish Councils in the preparation of NDPs and that must be done within the context of preparing a new SLP, which was a key tool for ensuring that a five year housing land supply could be demonstrated on an ongoing basis, so it would be about supporting their endeavours and advising where it was possible to do so. In terms of planning reforms, the government had consulted on proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework this time last year and had received over 11,000 responses which had certainly had a bearing on how quickly any changes would be made. If and when the changes came into effect, they would have a material bearing on how all Councils interpreted housing land supply. Local planning authorities would be able to take account of developers' previous track records when determining whether to grant planning permission; however, this was problematic as permission was granted for the land, not the applicant, so that would need to be considered in more detail. He indicated that developers' plans could change as a result of macro and micro economic conditions and it was perfectly legitimate for developers to say they were intending to do something one week and change their mind the next so it was important to be sensitive to the fact that would continue to happen. Overall, whilst the government

was looking to redress the balance, there would continue to be a lot of power and influence within the development industry.

- 67.19 In response to a query regarding how the lack of a five year housing land supply impacted planning applications going to appeal, the Associate Director: Planning advised that, if planning permission was refused and the application went to appeal, the appellant had the opportunity to set out their case as to why planning permission should be granted against the decision of the local planning authority. Whilst housing land supply did not have to be a key topic of discussion at major housing appeals, it was often cited by the appellant as being highly material to their case to warrant permission being granted even when the Council accepted they did not have a five year housing land supply. The appellant would often challenge the position as being worse than reported therefore making the argument greater than the Council considered it to be.
- 67.20 A Member recognised the need for the Interim Housing Position Statement document and that it was not changing policy; however, there was very little mentioned of climate and nature in comparison to the previous Agenda Item aside from a reference in the final bullet point at Page No. 58, Paragraph 3.7 of the report. The Planning Committee was having to permit large housing developments which were dependent on gas for energy and he felt that more could be done in that regard. The Lead Member for Built Environment felt that sustainability ran through the statement so this had been addressed to some extent. The Interim Planning Policy Manager was grateful for the recognition that the document was not intending to introduce new policy, in particular, not all criteria at Paragraph 3.7 of the report must be accorded to. He agreed that climate change in the wider sense was addressed in many places, including encouraging means of travel other than the private motor car which was enshrined within the National Planning Policy Framework and development plan policies. Bullet point 12 related to energy performance in the construction phase as opposed to the operation of the development itself but could be amended as part of the delegation.
- 67.21 The Leader of the Council indicated that houses were classed as having been delivered when they were watertight which was a labour intensive measure and Officers were considering whether there was a more efficient approach that could be taken which could be monitored within the organisation to reduce reliance on developers; this would skew the first set of data but monitoring would then be able to be done more quickly. He agreed with the points that had been raised regarding the importance of NDPs and the authority could do more to support Town and Parish Councils in ensuring these were up-to-date. There had been a lot of understandable frustration among Town and Parish Councils at the briefing and he was keen to start the process of greater engagement, including considering establishing a partner forum. The Interim Housing Position Statement was not a solution intended to fix everything but Officers felt it was necessary to acknowledge the housing land supply position and set out what this meant for residents, developers and the Council's own Officers to ensure a consistent approach to development.
- 67.22 During the debate which ensued, a Member indicated that he supported the Interim Housing Position Statement but had raised concern at the Executive Committee meeting regarding how this would be monitored and felt this needed to be done with more regularity. Without a five year housing land supply, the titled balance was engaged and there was a presumption in favour of sustainable development; the Council needed to get out of this position and frequent monitoring was necessary to establish when that would be the case. He recognised this would be resource intensive but did not feel that would be wasted – more regular monitoring with a running total would be better than coming from a standing position at an annual review. He did not expect figures to two decimal places, rather an understanding of the direction of travel; it was particularly vital that Planning Committee was aware of

the position when determining applications. He asked for the support of other Members given the importance of getting out of the titled balance position. The Lead Member for Built Environment understood the point being made but felt it was necessary to bear in mind the significant pressure Officers were under already and lack of resources was a reality which must be taken into consideration. Another Member supported the document and felt that the fundamental issue was that Paragraph 7 of the National Planning Policy Framework contained three strands of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental. Officers had dealt with the economic and environmental element but she did not feel that social aspects had been taken into account in terms of villages being hit by enormous amounts of development and how that impacted residents. As an intrinsic part of planning policy, she felt that something needed to be included around the social objective and proposed an amendment on that basis which was duly seconded. The Leader of the Council indicated that he was not unsympathetic to an amendment of that nature but clarification would be needed on the wording. The Mayor agreed there would be a short adjournment to allow discussion to take place in that regard.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

The meeting reconvened at 8:05pm with the same Members present.

- 67.23 The Lead Member for Built Environment advised that Officers were satisfied that the matter being considered in the amendment was capable of being dealt with via the delegated authority being sought as part of the motion, therefore an amendment was not necessary. The proposer and seconder of the amendment confirmed they were happy to withdraw the amendment on that basis. Another Member proposed an amendment to Page No. 55, Paragraph 1.1 of the report to add a sentence to state that “The supply figures will be monitored on a quarterly basis and reported to the Planning and Executive Committees”. This amendment was duly seconded. In debating the amendment, a Member raised concern it was unachievable; as a previous Lead Member for Built Environment, she was aware of the enormous effort required by Officers to calculate the figures and she questioned whether they would be accurate and withstand testing at appeal. The Leader of the Council indicated that the Chief Executive had given assurances that greater monitoring was being investigated in terms of giving an indication of travel and, whilst it was desirable to have a quarterly update on the housing land supply status, that was not realistic based on current resources required and there would be financial implications associated with any additional resources needed. The Deputy Leader of the Council reiterated these points and felt that the Planning department had recently made headway in terms of addressing the backlog of planning applications and issuing decisions and she was concerned that taking resources away from that would result in a deterioration of that performance. The Lead Member for Built Environment indicated that an alternative option could be looking into the potential of introducing Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) which could be monitored via the Performance Tracker. Another Member indicated that she would welcome a discussion by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as to whether that would be feasible; however, she could not support the amendment.

67.24 Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was lost. The substantive motion was subsequently put to the vote and it was

RESOLVED

1. That the Interim Housing Position Statement be **APPROVED** and published to explain the Council's approach to decision-making on planning applications involving the provision of housing.
2. That authority be delegated to the Associate Director: Planning, in consultation with the Lead Member for Built Environment, to make any necessary minor amendments and corrections to the document prior to publication.

The meeting closed at 8:10 pm

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	29 November 2023
Subject:	Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 – 2028/29
Report of:	Executive Director: Resources
Head of Service/Director:	Executive Director: Resources
Lead Member:	Lead Member for Finance & Asset Management
Number of Appendices:	5

Executive Summary:

The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) provides the financial plan for the Council for the period 2024/25 – 2028/29. It sets out the expected level of funding available to support the delivery of services, the likely cost of providing those services, the growth in service budgets that will be necessary to meet additional demands and the gap that exists between the funding available and the cost of service delivery. The strategy concludes with the plans that the Council has to close that funding gap.

Recommendation:

To RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 – 2028/29 be ADOPTED.

Financial Implications:

The Council could face a deficit in its base budget of £6.14m in the next five years. This is based upon a set of assumptions around funding that are uncertain but are the most likely given previous government announcements and consultations. Given the uncertainty around funding, a number of alternative scenarios have been included in the MTFS to highlight the potential spectrum of funding that the council may receive in future years.

Assumptions have also been made, based on latest forecasts, around the likely cost of services over the time frame.

The Council must set a balanced budget on an annual basis – it cannot run deficits and cannot borrow to fund day-to-day service delivery. In the event that it does not have sufficient resource to meet its expenditure needs, a s114 notice (see para 1.4 of Appendix A for definition) will need to be issued and a balanced budget re-established within the financial envelope available to the Council.

Legal Implications:

As detailed in the report the Council must set its budget in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

More specific legal advice will be obtained, where necessary, as part of any actions that arise from the MTFS going forward.

Environmental and Sustainability Implications:

None directly associated with this report

Resource Implications (including impact on equalities):

None directly associated with this report; however, it should be noted that any potential service reviews / reduction in employee costs / potential redundancies would be the subject of detailed proposals and consultation with the affected staff and trade unions at the appropriate time and before any decisions are made.

Safeguarding Implications:

None directly associated with this report

Impact on the Customer:

None directly associated with this report

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Financial planning is fundamental to good financial governance and the strategic management of the authority over the long term. The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) sets out resource availability to meet service expenditure expectations and identifies where the two are not aligned.

2.0 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2024/25 – 2028/29

2.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) is a key element within the Council's overall strategic planning framework. The Strategy takes a medium term perspective and is reviewed, updated and rolled forward annually to set a framework for how budget pressures and priorities will be managed within the best estimates of available resources.

2.2 The MTFS outlines the budget that will be delivered over the medium to long term. A further report, specifically on the 2024/25 detailed budget, will be presented to both Executive Committee and Council in February 2024 for Member approval.

2.3 It is important to understand that the MTFS does not constitute a formal budget in respect of the period 2024/25 to 2028/29, as such, the indicative annual assumptions included both within the projected spending pressures and the potential funding detailed, will be subject to a full review and decision making process as part of each of the annual Revenue Budget and Council Tax setting decisions.

2.4 Instead, the MTFS is intended to outline, in broad terms, the specific funding and service issues over the period based on the latest assumptions and how the Council will, within its financial constraints, fund its core services and priorities.

2.5 The position of Local Government finance has been uncertain for long period of time and successive MTFSs have tried to outline a medium term plan against this undefined backdrop. In producing this year's strategy, there is continued uncertainty with the impending general election, the impact of inflation, concerns about the economy as well as another year of uncertainty around the long term future of local government funding.

- 2.6** In addition to the national uncertainty the Council faces with regards to its financial plans, both corporate and service related financial pressures continue to have a significant impact on the Council's forwards projections of its financial position. These include:
- Increased salary growth pressure
 - The local impact of high inflation on service budgets
 - Increasing demand for additional resources to meet a range of service requirements and pressures.
 - A new Council Plan in 2024
- 2.7** The MTFS also contains important strategic planning in a number of areas in order that the Council can plan for the changes it will need to make in the medium term to ensure it is able to meet its statutory duty of producing a balanced budget on an annual basis.
- 2.8** Best estimates have been made of the future financial position of the Council within the attached MTFS based on current assumptions of both government and local policy. Clearly the projections within the MTFS are subject to potentially significant change as a result of government policy on local government finance, either positively or negatively, and therefore strategic financial management of this authority will need to be flexible to be able to respond to the rapidly moving agenda.
- 3.0 CONSULTATION**
- 3.1** Transform Working Group has been consulted on the production of the MTFS. A full Member seminar will be held on the MTFS. Trade Unions are also briefed on the content of the MTFS.
- 4.0 ASSOCIATED RISKS**
- 4.1** Financial risks are detailed within the strategy. The corporate risk register specifically references the risk associated with funding uncertainty and is updated and monitored on a quarterly basis.
- 5.0 MONITORING**
- 5.1** The MTFS will be kept under continual review and amended in line with significant policy changes. Performance will be monitored against the plan by Members through the quarterly budget and performance monitoring reports whilst budget proposals will be presented in February of each year.
- 6.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES/COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES**
- 6.1** Finance and resources is currently a Council Plan priority.
- All council polices and strategies are linked by their need for funding to the MTFS, the annual budget and good financial management .
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Background Papers: Medium Term Financial Strategy 2023/24 – 2027/28

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Appendices: Appendix 1 – Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 – 2028/29
A – Forecast Total Resources table
B – Forecast Total Resources graph
C – Real terms funding impact
D – Forecast net expenditure

Medium Term Financial Strategy

2024/25 – 2028/29

1.0	BACKGROUND
1.1	The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) provides a financial framework for the council's strategic planning and decision making. The MTFS incorporates key factors such as the changes in Government funding, our spending plans and the level of savings and increased income that are likely to be needed. By anticipating financial pressures now, we can plan ahead early to meet the significant challenges in a way that ensures resources are targeted to the council's highest priorities and have the minimum impact on services.
1.2	The last MTFS was approved in January 2023 and covered the period 2023 to 2028. That strategy reflected the impact of austerity on council finances throughout the last decade, the outlook for public finances made in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement, the further delays announced for funding reform within the sector and the growing impact of inflation on the Council's cost base.
1.3	In the period since the MTFS, little has changed. The council still has a lack of clarity on its funding position, even for 2024/25; there has been no engagement from the government on the future of New Homes Bonus as promised in December 2022; the economy continues to stagnate with some forecasting a recession in 2024; the resultant outlook for public finances is bleak, particularly for unprotected departments such as local government; and inflation remains stubbornly persistent.
1.4	It is around this position of uncertainty, reduced funding and rising costs that this MTFS is based and highlights the reasons for a growing number of authorities either declaring a section 114 notice or highlighting why they are on the verge of declaring one. A section 114 notice indicates that the council's forecast income is insufficient to meet its forecast expenditure for the next year.
1.5	It should be noted that Tewkesbury Borough Council is not in immediate danger of issuing a section 114 notice given the short to medium term forecasts and the existence of a significant reserve to support the base budget, but the forecast budget gap over the medium term is significant and without meaningful progress to reduce that gap, both internally and externally, the ongoing financial sustainability of the Council will be called into question.
1.6	Despite the fog of uncertainty and issues highlighted, it is imperative that the Council understands the potential financial challenges it may face so that it can take sound financial decisions. This strategy provides members with an update on the issues affecting our budget, the most likely funding scenario the Council will face in the medium term based on the current understanding of government policy and economic forecasts and describes some of the actions being taken to address the projected shortfall in funding.

2.0	FUNDING
2.1	<p>The future of local government funding continues to remain uncertain with both the quantum of funding and the allocation of that funding being unclear. It has been a number of years since funding reform was first contemplated and scheduled for implementation but no progress has been achieved in delivering this ambition. In addition, whilst the Spending Review 2021 has set the funding envelope for a three-year period, no certainty exists beyond March 2025 and the Autumn Statement 2022 suggested much tighter public spending than previously envisaged. There is also the matter of a General Election to take place in either 2024 or January 2025 which further complicates financial projections.</p>
2.2	<p>Given the levels of uncertainty, it is difficult to forecast funding with any degree of assurance or accuracy. The following paragraphs describe a 'likely' scenario based on what the current government has told the sector over a number of years. However, there are numerous factors that contribute to this likely scenario and a change to one of those factors can produce very different outcomes. Therefore, section 2.15 looks at some of those variances and potential different funding scenarios to highlight the spectrum of hypothetical alternative outcomes for local government funding over the next five years.</p>
2.3	<p><u>Quantum of Funding</u></p> <p>The 2021 Spending Review provided government departments certainty of funding for the three years between April 2022 and March 2025. In terms of funding for local government, whilst there was significant additional funding in the first year, there was no additional funding in the second and third years outside of social care and some smaller grant funding pots. Therefore, the overall quantum of funding for local government, aside from social care, remains cash flat for the current and next financial year and, given the current inflationary pressures, results in a real term cut in funding.</p> <p>Beyond March 2025, reliance for financial forecasting is placed upon the Autumn Statement 2022 and the announcement of 1% growth in public spending each year. This level of growth is very tight given the assumption of a return to normal levels of inflation of around 2% and would leave the public sector continuing to look for savings in order to balance its budgets. This position could be worse for unprotected departments such as local government as other government spending commitments for areas such as the NHS will require increases above the 1% set for the public sector as a whole. This could result in cash reductions for local government during the next Spending Review period with some estimates concluding a 0.7% reduction in funding will be required. More recently, the Institute for Fiscal Studies suggested that unprotected departments may need to shoulder cuts of up to 1.5% post 2025.</p> <p>Given the uncertainty around this forecast, particularly with an election before the next Spending Review, and the potential catastrophic impact on services of further cuts to local government funding, the MTFS has assumed that the slightly more generous position of a 0% change to departmental spending will be met. It should be noted however, that even at this level, this is likely to be another real terms cut in the spending power of local government.</p>
2.4	<p><u>Funding reform</u></p> <p>Funding reform is the term given to proposals to amend the allocation basis and grant regime of central government funding. The Fair Funding Review (FFR) was established a number of years ago to review how the overall quantum of funding for local government is allocated to individual authorities. Many of the drivers for allocating funding are over ten years old and reflective of a very different country. In the period since the</p>

	<p>commencement of the review, the number of individual grants from central government has grown and the 2021 census has highlighted a significant change to the population spread across the country.</p> <p>The Finance Policy Statement announced by Secretary of State on the 12th of December 2022 confirmed what had been widely predicted in that the funding reforms proposed would be postponed until after the next general election. As a result, no funding reform will take place until 2025/26 at the earliest with a more likely time frame for introduction being 2026/27.</p> <p>Whilst this is disappointing given that funding reform was originally set to be introduced from 2019, for Tewkesbury Borough Council the delay is beneficial as current funding reform proposals highlight a significant reduction in central funding for the council. It is expected that a ‘damping’ regime will accompany funding reform in order to manage the losses at individual councils although the value of this regime may not be significant.</p> <p>The funding forecast at appendix A has made the assumption that the current proposals for the Fair Funding Review will be implemented in 2026/27 with a number of the current individual grants ceasing at that point and being rolled into a much reduced Revenue Support Grant. The change to allocation drivers will result in reduced funding for lower tier authorities, although the population growth enjoyed by the Borough Council over the last ten years will provide some benefit. Assumptions have also been made about a limited damping regime that provides some moderate transitional relief in 2026/27 to the reductions in funding.</p> <p>The resultant impact highlights a reduction in Settlement Funding and other grants of £2.48m in 26/27, equivalent to a reduction of circa 48%. The reduction to funding continues the following year as the damping grant drops out before flatlining the year after.</p> <p>There is of course the possibility of different outcomes to the FFR or that it may not happen at all given that it will be seven years since the proposals were last discussed meaningfully. Therefore, it cannot be stated with any certainty that the outcome highlighted in this MTFS will actually occur but for the purposes of modelling the medium term, it has been deemed appropriate to include funding reform in its current shape.</p>
2.5	<p><u>Business rates retention reset</u></p> <p>As with the delays to funding reform, the reset of the business rate retention scheme has also been postponed to 25/26 at the earliest. As with the FFR, it is more likely that the reset will actually occur in 26/27 given the impact of the General Election and would be based on outturn data for 2024/25.</p> <p>The reset is an integral part of the current retention scheme and was originally scheduled to be delivered in 2020/21. When it is delivered, it will take the growth generated by local government as a whole since the inception of the retention scheme in 2013 and will redistribute it based on the needs assessment within the Baseline Funding Level. When this does happen, Tewkesbury is likely to lose a significant level of funding.</p> <p>Given the delay to the reset, Tewkesbury’s retention levels will continue to grow and a total retention level of £2.64m has been assumed for 2025/26 which is an increase of £0.66m on current levels.</p> <p>At the point of reset, Tewkesbury’s retention level is forecast to fall by £1.39m based on current assumptions resulting in a retained level of £1.25m in 26/27. There is no damping regime associated with this reduction of funding and it is not currently known when the following reset would take place. As a result, it is hard to place reliance on business growth within the Borough as a stable source of funding for the Council.</p>

2.6	<p><u>Business rates technical adjustments</u></p> <p>A further consideration on estimating business rates income will be the outcome from the consultation published by the Government on 28 September 2023 covering technical adjustments to the Business Rates Retention System in response to the Non-Domestic Rating Bill. The Non-Domestic Rating Bill, currently before Parliament, brings forward changes to the ways that business rates multipliers will be calculated and applied and could be implemented from 2024/25.</p> <p>As a consequence of the Bill changes, the Government are considering technical amendments to the Business Rates Retention System (BRRS) to maintain the accuracy of levy and safety net payments and future income compensation paid to local authorities for the impact of tax policy decisions. The consultation closed on 02 November 2023 with any changes likely to feed through to the 2024/25 Local Government Finance Settlement.</p>
2.7	<p><u>Funding Guarantee</u></p> <p>In the first couple of financial years of the decade, Tewkesbury has seen a 0% change to its Core Spending Power (CSP) as government funding has been reduced and council tax levels increased to compensate for that reduction. It had been widely expected that this 0% floor to local government funding would continue given the roll over nature of funding settlements. However, the Finance Policy Statement from the 12th December 2022 proposed a new floor to local government funding being 3% of CSP. Currently this is only proposed as a one off but the MTFs modelling has assumed it is carried over into 24/25 at the 3% level, retained in 25/26 but at a 0% level to reflect assumptions around the next Spending Review and then scrapped in 26/27 with the introduction of funding reform.</p> <p>The Funding Guarantee of 3% is based on all council's receiving at least a 3% uplift in funding as compared to their current year CSP. The calculation of CSP includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settlement Funding Assessment (Baseline Funding Level and Revenue Support Grant); • compensation for not increasing the business rates multiplier; • Council tax; • New Homes Bonus; • Services Grant; and • Funding Guarantee <p>It does not include business rates growth retention.</p> <p>With Tewkesbury's current CSP being circa £10.3m, the Council would expect to see an uplift in funding of over £0.3m in 24/25. Actual projections for funding over the next two years, excluding business rates growth, see increases of £0.41m (3.98%) and £0.14m (1.29%). Whilst funding increases are welcome and more than previous settlements, it should be noted that in all three years of the Funding Guarantee, increased resources have still been significantly below levels of inflations resulting in real terms reductions in funding.</p>
2.8	<p><u>New Homes Bonus</u></p> <p>The Finance Policy Statement 2022 confirmed that New Homes Bonus (NHB) would continue for a further year in 2023/24 and that it was the government's intention to consult with the sector and announce its future plans for NHB before the 24/25 finance settlement. At the time of writing, this is yet to happen and now looks unlikely.</p>

It is therefore assumed that NHB will continue in its current format – one year only reward – for one more year before being withdrawn in 25/26. This will mean that the final five years of the scheme will only have attracted one year only reward for each new home delivered rather than the six years originally designed. This is a substantial reduction in funding for this Council given the level of housebuilding taking place within the Borough. The Council might have expected to receive circa £5.78m in NHB funding for 24/25 if the original scheme was still in place rather than the £1.24m it is now expecting to receive.

The MTFS expects NHB to be withdrawn in 25/26 and the Funding Guarantee to be increased to partially compensate for this loss. It is not yet known whether the government will at some stage confirm plans for the future of NHB or if there might be a replacement scheme, as originally consulted on in Spring 2021.

2.9 Council Tax referendum thresholds

The Autumn Statement in 2022 confirmed council tax principles for the 2023/24 and it has been assumed that these will be carried forward throughout the MTFS period.

Greater freedom for tax increases was announced with the core principle increasing from 2% to 3% and the Adult Social Care Levy increasing from 1% to 2%. For District Councils, the referendum principle has been amended to the greater of 3% or £5. Given how low Tewkesbury’s council tax is at £139.36 per annum for a Band D property, the largest increase the Council could levy under these principles is £5 throughout the MTFS period.

The projected level of council tax for a Band D property is illustrated in the table below.

	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29
Forecast Council Tax	£139.36	£144.36	£149.36	£154.36	£159.36	£164.36
Increase (£)	£5.00	£5.00	£5.00	£5.00	£5.00	£5.00
Increase (%)	3.72%	3.59%	3.46%	3.35%	3.24%	3.14%

This forecast will mean that Tewkesbury falls further below the average council tax for a District as most other councils will be able to raise their tax by 3% which will generate more than £5 each year.

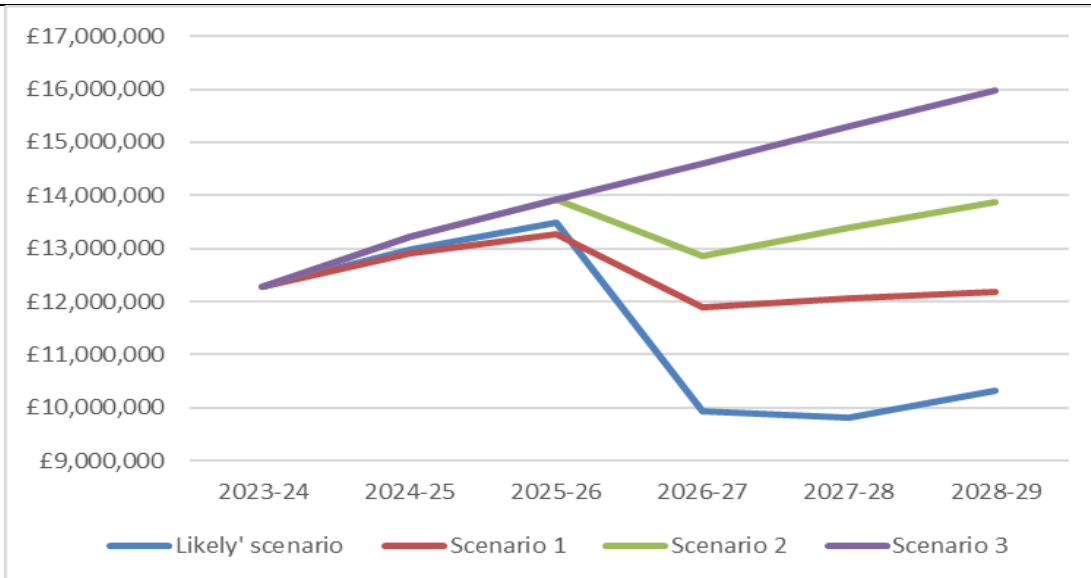
As in previous years, there is a clear expectation from government that local authorities will use the full freedom of their council tax raising powers. All government estimates of funding and Core Spending Power assume that council tax is increased by the highest amount possible before a referendum is required. Given this, and the significant deficit generated by further funding cuts and increasing costs, the MTFS has assumed a continued increase in council tax band D of £5 per annum throughout the MTFS period.

The increased council tax generates additional ongoing funding of over £0.9m in the five years of the MTFS whilst the band d charge to council tax payers will increase from £139.36 to £164.36, an increase of £25 or 17.9% over the five year period. Given how low Tewkesbury’s council tax currently is (eight lowest District in England) it is expected that even with these forecast increases, Tewkesbury will remain in the bottom quartile for council tax charged.

<p>2.1 0</p>	<p><u>Tax base growth</u></p> <p>As highlighted earlier, the Borough continues to grow with substantial housebuilding taking place now and forecast into the future. Over the last five years, the number of properties within the Borough has grown by 3,506 or 8.6% and that trend continues as we approach 2024. That trend may slow down in the coming years due to economic factors but with the planning permissions in place there is still likely to be a high level of growth across the Borough with nearly 5000 new properties being forecast.</p> <p>Converting properties into a tax base means placing each property into a valuation band; applying discounts, exemptions and premiums; deducting the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and then converting it all back to a Band D equivalent. The tax base then enables the calculation of how much council tax revenue will be raised from a certain charge.</p> <p>The table below highlights the projections of properties and the tax base.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="236 712 1295 891"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2023-24</th> <th>2024-25</th> <th>2025-26</th> <th>2026-27</th> <th>2027-28</th> <th>2028-29</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Forecast total properties</td> <td>44,016</td> <td>45,024</td> <td>45,893</td> <td>46,837</td> <td>47,899</td> <td>48,944</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Forecast tax base</td> <td>36,781</td> <td>37,624</td> <td>38,349</td> <td>39,138</td> <td>40,026</td> <td>40,899</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Band D increase</td> <td>970</td> <td>842</td> <td>726</td> <td>789</td> <td>887</td> <td>873</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Annual taxbase increase</td> <td>2.71%</td> <td>2.29%</td> <td>1.93%</td> <td>2.06%</td> <td>2.27%</td> <td>2.18%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The increasing tax base means that the council will collect around £600,000 more in council tax in five years time, even at the current council tax charge. It should however be noted that whilst each new property will deliver increased revenue, they will also demand increased services (see Section 4: Growth), the cost of which outweighs the increased revenue, given the low council tax charged by the Borough.</p>		2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Forecast total properties	44,016	45,024	45,893	46,837	47,899	48,944	Forecast tax base	36,781	37,624	38,349	39,138	40,026	40,899	Band D increase	970	842	726	789	887	873	Annual taxbase increase	2.71%	2.29%	1.93%	2.06%	2.27%	2.18%
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<p>2.1 1</p>	<p><u>Delay to introduction of Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging (pEPR)</u></p> <p>The Government has deferred the introduction of Extended Producer Responsibility (pEPR) by a year to October 2025. Commentary included in the 2023/24 settlement indicated pEPR may have provided additional income to local authorities.</p> <p>“2024-25 brings with it a significant new funding stream, subject to successful delivery of the Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging (pEPR) scheme as soon as is feasible within this financial year; local authorities can expect to receive additional income from the scheme whilst being asked to submit data relevant to their waste collection services. Alongside His Majesty’s Treasury and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, we will be assessing the impact of additional pEPR income on the relative needs and resources of individual local authorities in the coming year.”</p> <p>Given the delay and uncertainty to exactly how the scheme will work and whether there will be a net benefit to the council or not, the pEPR has not been included within the MTFs at this point. This will be kept under review until such time that it can be included with certainty in our financial projections.</p>																																			

<p>2.1 2</p>	<p><u>Total forecast resources</u></p> <p>The combination of the assumptions made in the previous paragraphs is detailed within appendix A which provides the funding forecast for the next 5 years. As can be seen, the roll over nature of the next two settlements plus the growth of business rates retention and increases to council tax result in a steady increase in resources in the short term equivalent to £1.21m or 9.8%.</p> <p>However, in the third year of the MTFs, the expected impact of funding reform and Business Rates retention reset has a significant detrimental bearing on available funding, even after allowing for damping protection. The MTFs depicts a scenario where over £3.5m of funding is lost in 26/27, with further losses in 27/28 before a modest recovery in the final year.</p> <p>The table below summarizes the forecast position:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="231 683 1372 873"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>23-24</th> <th>24-25</th> <th>25-26</th> <th>26-27</th> <th>27-28</th> <th>28-29</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total Resources</td> <td>12.28</td> <td>12.99</td> <td>13.49</td> <td>9.94</td> <td>9.82</td> <td>10.33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Change in Total Resources (£m)</td> <td>1.27</td> <td>0.71</td> <td>0.50</td> <td>-3.55</td> <td>-0.12</td> <td>0.51</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Change in Total Resources (%)</td> <td>11.50%</td> <td>5.74%</td> <td>3.87%</td> <td>-26.30%</td> <td>-1.26%</td> <td>5.23%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29		£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	Total Resources	12.28	12.99	13.49	9.94	9.82	10.33	Change in Total Resources (£m)	1.27	0.71	0.50	-3.55	-0.12	0.51	Change in Total Resources (%)	11.50%	5.74%	3.87%	-26.30%	-1.26%	5.23%
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<p>2.1 3</p>	<p>To illustrate the expected levels of funding over the next five years, a graphical representation is included at appendix B. This summarizes the funding streams into four headings so that the movement on each of these can be seen but also shows the level of total resources available. The chart also includes information from the previous seven years as well as the forecast five years and the current year to provide a comprehensive overview of the resources that have been, and will likely be, available to the council.</p> <p>The chart clearly highlights the growing level of dependency on council tax to finance the activities of the council. The assumed £5 increase in council tax over the twelve years highlighted in the appendix together with a growth in the tax base results in total council tax income increasing from £3.56m in 2017/18 to £6.72m in 2028/29. This is an increase of £3.17m or 89% and council tax as a percentage of overall funding has increased from 36.5% to 65.1% in this forecast.</p> <p>The chart also highlights the volatile nature of business rates funding with a contraction in funding during the pandemic before a recovery ahead of the system reset. As a result of this volatility, business rates retention is expected to diminish by £0.23m from its current level.</p> <p>As with business rates, grant funding has fluctuated over the period but will reduce dramatically over the final three years of the forecast as a result of the Fair Funding Review. Grant funding is forecast to reduce by £3.3m over this period and leave the Council with a negative Revenue Support grant of £0.06m. If funding reform is taken forward and has the impact as illustrated in the MTFs it will mean grant funding will fall by 101.2% between 2017/18 and 2028/29.</p> <p>Overall, total resources forecast for 2028/29 are set to be £1.95m less than the current year in cash terms.</p>																																			
<p>2.1 4</p>	<p><u>Real terms impact of funding forecast</u></p> <p>Whilst the forward forecast of resources highlights that cash levels of funding for 2028/29 will be significantly less than the current year and only £0.58m more than 2017/18 levels, that ignores the impact of inflation over that period.</p>																																			

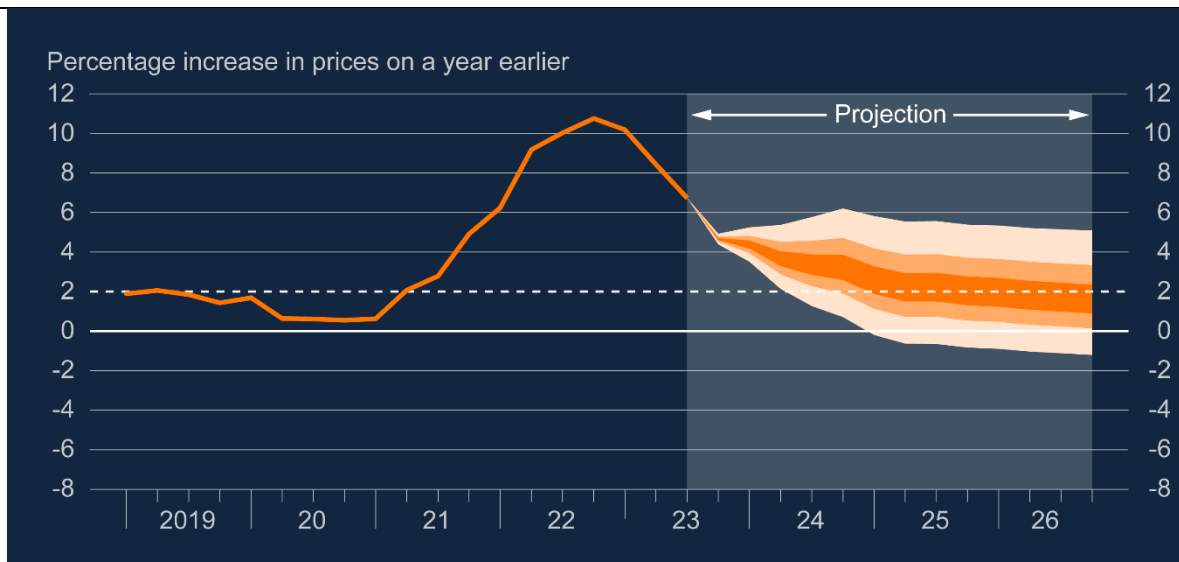
	<p>Appendix C provides a graphical representation of what levels of funding may look like if the 2017/18 funding level simply uplifted by inflation each year. The forward forecast uses expected inflation levels for the Consumer Price Index Q3 as projected by the Bank of England in their November 2023 Monetary Report.</p> <p>As can be seen in Appendix C, funding levels increased by far more than inflation in the early years as the Council benefited from increased funding from New Homes Bonus, business rates retention and council tax whilst inflation remained low.</p> <p>However, the future projection highlights the impact of funding changes forecast in 2026/27. A funding gap of £3.7m emerges in 26/27 and increases to over £4m the following year before falling back to £3.7m. This means, that in real terms, the spending power of the council is forecast to reduce by 27% on 2017/18 levels and would be significantly higher if the austerity of the previous seven years had also been factored in.</p>
<p>2.1 5</p>	<p><u>Alternative scenarios</u></p> <p>As highlighted at 2.2, the previous sections describe the ‘likely’ scenario based on current government policy and announcements. Given the political and economic uncertainties as well as doubts over whether planned reforms would go ahead in their current guise given the age of them, there are a significant range of possible funding scenario’s that could differ from the ‘likely’ scenario.</p> <p>There are some scenario’s that could be worse than the ‘likely’ scenario that has been highlighted. This could be as a result of reduced public spending either generally or specific to unprotected departments, poor economic performance impacting on business growth or a reduced ability to grow local council tax levels. However, given the impact to local government services should the ‘likely’ scenario occur, there is more weight to the upside risk. Therefore, the focus on alternative scenario’s within this MTFS is on improvements to the settlement.</p> <p>The chart below highlights three possible scenario’s in comparison to the likely scenario. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenario 1 – a 0% change to the Core Spending Power of the Council in the next five years. This reflects the position adopted by the government in settlements between 2021 and 2023 for Tewkesbury. In this scenario, grant funding is reduced as council tax income increases to provide a 0% change in CSP and the only increase in funding is from increased business rates retention. The planned Fair Funding Review has been removed in this scenario. A business rates reset is still forecast for 26/27. • Scenario 2 – a 3% change in the Core Spending Power of the Council. This follows the parameters of scenario 1 but allows for an overall increase of 3% in Core Spending Power. This is similar to the current year settlement but includes additional council tax income within the overall 3% uplift. • Scenario 3 – as per Scenario 2 but with no business rates reset in 26/27.



As can be seen, over the long term, even a freeze to core spending power results in a better funding position to the current 'likely' scenario. The other depicted scenario's highlight increasing resource levels with scenario 3 suggesting an increase of £3.69m or 30%.

The graph highlights a range of outcomes that could be possible with slight movements on assumptions. Given the amount of moving parts that form our funding projections, there are many more scenario's that could be constructed and added to the graph. Which, if any, will come to fruition, will not be known for some time yet and results in the Council's financial planning being based on unstable foundations.

<p>2.1 6</p>	<p>Summary</p> <p>As highlighted at the start of this strategy, given the uncertainty with all aspects of the current funding regime, many assumptions have been needed to be made in order to provide a medium term projection. It is unlikely that all of those assumptions will become reality and it is inevitable that this projection will change. However, these assumptions are the best information we have to work with at the current time and therefore are the basis for our assessment of future financial challenges for the authority.</p>
<p>3.0</p>	<p>NET EXPENDITURE FORECAST</p>
<p>3.1</p>	<p>The opposite side to funding projections is an estimate of the Council's net expenditure requirements over the medium term. Taking the current core budget of the Council, a forecast of expenditure to maintain the current services of the Council is made using a number of assumptions about inflationary impacts.</p>
<p>3.2</p>	<p><u>Consumer Price Inflation forecast</u></p> <p>The recent Bank of England Monetary Policy Report in November 2023 highlighted the levels of Consumer Price Inflation over recent years and made a projection of future price increases. This is highlighted in the following graph.</p>



As can be seen, high levels of inflation have been affecting prices since late 2021 and whilst it appears that the peak of price inflation is now past and inflation is falling, it is unlikely that inflation will return to the Bank of England target level of 2% until at least the middle of 2025.

This will mean that the Council's budgets for the purchase of goods and services will need to increase significantly in the next two years in order to keep pace with inflation and ensure that the same level of inputs can be purchased to deliver our services. For the purpose of the MTFS, we use inflation forecasts for Q3 of the preceding year to forecast likely budget increases. Utilising the Bank of England projection, the following levels of price increase have been applied to relevant expenditure budgets:

	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29
CPI Impact	6.93%	3.30%	2.13%	1.62%	1.75%

Similarly, CPI inflation forecasts have been applied to fees and charges projections where the Council has discretion over the charge levied to the customer.

3.3 Pay Awards

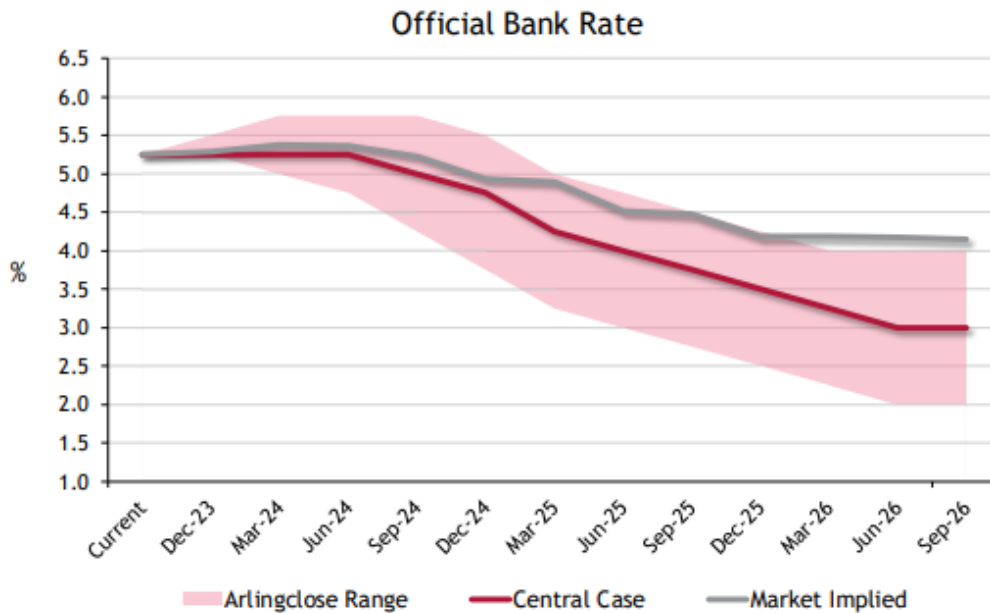
Assumed levels of employee inflation for all posts, based on the annual pay award (negotiated at national level and incorporated into contracts of employment), are shown in the table below.

	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29
Salary inflation	4%	2%	2%	2%	2%

The level of salary inflation assumed is based on both the prevailing level of general inflation and the tightness of funding settlements to get to a balanced position of likely agreed pay award. A pay award reserve is in place to support any in year additional costs from excessive pay awards and to be replenished should pay awards be less than anticipated. This reserve will be utilized in 2023-24 to cover the recently agreed pay awards for 2023/24. The Council had budgeted for a flat increase of £1,601 per full time employee, but the agreed award has been finalized at £1,925 for the majority of staff.

3.4 Interest rates

The Bank of England once again froze the base rate in October 2023 following 14 consecutive rate rises between December 2021 and August 2023 which saw the base rate move from 0.1% to 5.25%. The council's treasury management advisors, Arlingclose, have forecast that this rate will be held until mid 2024 before slowly dropping off toward 3%. The following graph highlights this forecast as well as that of other market institutions.



Based on this projection of the base rate we forecast the likely return from treasury investments and the potential cost of any new borrowing. The three month money market rate is used as a blended rate to cover both short and long term interest rates. The table below highlights this blended rate that has been used for the purpose of the MTFS projection.

	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29
3 month money market rate	4.89%	3.66%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%

3.5 The previous three tables highlight the main inflationary assumptions contained within the medium term projection although there are a number of more specific assumptions for certain expenditure and income lines such as the expected cost of utilities that have seen dramatic increases over the last twelve months. There are also specific calculations for items such as the Minimum Revenue Provision.

3.6 The MTFS cost projection also picks up any known and unavoidable cost increases. These are not the growth items where the Council has discretion but significant movement on costs, outside of the Council's control.

There are two items to highlight in this MTFS.

1. An increased cost of external audit provision totalling £66,500 or 95%. This increased cost reflects the additional work required to be undertaken by external audit but also the market conditions for the provision of this service.
2. An increased cost of £200,000 for the disposal of recycled materials as reported in the Q2 financial outturn report. The budget for the current year was reduced as

	<p>the value the recycled materials had increased in the previous year. This has now been reversed and we are seeing lower values resulting in a higher gate fee for the disposal. A prudent estimate of this volatile cost stream has therefore been included within the MTFS</p>																																			
3.7	<p>Applying these inflationary expectations and known cost variances to our current core budget allows a forecast to be made over the medium term about levels of expenditure which are likely to be required to provide our current services, at current service standards, over the next five years. The detailed forecast is shown in appendix D and highlighted below.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>23-24</th> <th>24-25</th> <th>25-26</th> <th>26-27</th> <th>27-28</th> <th>28-29</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Net budget</td> <td>12.28</td> <td>13.44</td> <td>14.20</td> <td>14.74</td> <td>15.13</td> <td>15.47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Change in net budget (£m)</td> <td>1.26</td> <td>1.16</td> <td>0.75</td> <td>0.54</td> <td>0.39</td> <td>0.34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Change in net budget (%)</td> <td>11.45%</td> <td>9.42%</td> <td>5.61%</td> <td>3.84%</td> <td>2.62%</td> <td>2.26%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29		£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	Net budget	12.28	13.44	14.20	14.74	15.13	15.47	Change in net budget (£m)	1.26	1.16	0.75	0.54	0.39	0.34	Change in net budget (%)	11.45%	9.42%	5.61%	3.84%	2.62%	2.26%
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3.8	<p>As can be seen from the table, there is a significant rise in the cost of providing current services in each of the next two years, as well as the current year, given expected levels of inflation, employee pay awards and unavoidable cost increases. Nearly £2m additional cost will be faced between April 2024 and March 2026 due to rising costs before the council considers funding new ambitions or supporting growth within services.</p>																																			
3.9	<p>Over the course of the medium term, it is currently forecast that the net budget will increase from £12.28m to £15.47m, an increase of £3.18m or 25.9%.</p>																																			
4.0	GROWTH																																			
4.1	<p>As highlighted in the previous section, the cost of providing current services is set to increase significantly. In addition to this, it should be expected that our services will need to continue to grow to meet the increasing demands on the Council. This is as a result of the projected growth in the size of the Borough where the number of domestic dwellings could increase circa 11.2%. As a result of this, services such as waste and recycling, housing, planning, revenues and benefits could all require an increase in capacity to meet the extra demand generated by a bigger Borough. This of course, has the knock on effect of requiring larger support services to assist the increasing front line requirement.</p>																																			
4.2	<p>In addition to this, new requirements are being placed on the council each year. In recent years, areas such as cyber security, General Data Protection Regulations and climate change have resulted in additional resources needing to be found by the Council to meet the emerging requirements. The requirement for 10% Biodiversity Net Gain on planning applications comes into force in January 2024 and is likely to require specialist input to ensure we are meeting our duties. Whilst some new burdens grant funding has been received to support this, there has not been any confirmation of ongoing funding from the government to meet this requirement and is therefore currently another example of a 'new' cost falling upon the council to fund.</p>																																			
4.3	<p>Given both of these factors, it would therefore be right to assume a continued demand for growth of the budget over the coming years. For the current year, over £1.5m of ongoing growth was requested and £0.45m was approved for inclusion in the budget which continued the trend of previous years. The forthcoming year again sees a similar level of request being made with decisions yet to be made on the affordability and prioritisation of those bids.</p>																																			

4.4	Therefore, it is prudent, for the purposes of the MTFs, to assume a level of growth each year over the period of the MTFs. Given the projections on both funding and the rising cost of providing services a 'managed' level of £0.2m per annum is included. Whilst it is expected that services and the ambitions of the Council may seek higher levels of growth, it will be an important part of the deficit reduction programme of the council to manage growth so that only unavoidable growth is included within the base budget. Funding for other growth requirements will need to be met from existing budgets as expenditure is further prioritized to meet the overall funding envelope available to the council and avoid heading towards the possibility of a section114 notice.																																																								
5.0	FUNDING GAP																																																								
5.1	<p>Combining the forecasts of the previous sections provides the overall projection of the Council's net budget position for the next five years. This is shown in the table below.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="236 696 1369 992"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>23-24</th> <th>24-25</th> <th>25-26</th> <th>26-27</th> <th>27-28</th> <th>28-29</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Projected net expenditure</td> <td>12.28</td> <td>13.44</td> <td>14.20</td> <td>14.74</td> <td>15.13</td> <td>15.47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Projected growth</td> <td>0.00</td> <td>0.20</td> <td>0.40</td> <td>0.60</td> <td>0.80</td> <td>1.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Projected total expenditure</td> <td>12.28</td> <td>13.64</td> <td>14.60</td> <td>15.34</td> <td>15.93</td> <td>16.47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Projected Funding</td> <td>12.28</td> <td>12.99</td> <td>13.49</td> <td>9.94</td> <td>9.82</td> <td>10.33</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Funding Gap</td> <td>0.00</td> <td>0.65</td> <td>1.10</td> <td>5.40</td> <td>6.11</td> <td>6.14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>% of net exp</td> <td>0.00%</td> <td>4.78%</td> <td>7.56%</td> <td>35.17%</td> <td>38.35%</td> <td>37.26%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29		£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	Projected net expenditure	12.28	13.44	14.20	14.74	15.13	15.47	Projected growth	0.00	0.20	0.40	0.60	0.80	1.00	Projected total expenditure	12.28	13.64	14.60	15.34	15.93	16.47	Projected Funding	12.28	12.99	13.49	9.94	9.82	10.33	Funding Gap	0.00	0.65	1.10	5.40	6.11	6.14	% of net exp	0.00%	4.78%	7.56%	35.17%	38.35%	37.26%
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5.2	As can be seen, the projected total level of expenditure by 28/29 is £16.47m inclusive of assumed growth in services. Of this expenditure, only £10.33m is provided by the expected funding available under the 'likely' funding scenario leaving a funding gap of £6.14m. The early years of the MTFs provide smaller funding gaps as a growth in funding partly offsets the rising cost of core services and new growth demands. However, from 26/27 onwards, following the assumed funding reform and business rates reset, the funding gap jumps dramatically and continues to grow as funding remains stagnant whilst costs are expected to rise.																																																								
5.3	<p>Whilst the table in 5.1 depicts the potential deficit associated with the 'likely' funding scenario, the alternative funding scenarios have also been used to calculate alternative deficit projections. The table and graph below highlight these alternatives compared to the likely scenario and provide a spread of potential deficits facing the council in an uncertain future. As would be expected, given the different funding levels projected in the alternative scenario's, the range of potential deficits is quite wide ranging from the £6.14m already illustrated down to £0.5m under scenario 3.</p> <p>Alternatives deficits:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="236 1630 1369 1836"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>23-24</th> <th>24-25</th> <th>25-26</th> <th>26-27</th> <th>27-28</th> <th>28-29</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> <th>£m</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>'Likely' scenario</td> <td>0</td> <td>0.65</td> <td>1.10</td> <td>5.40</td> <td>6.11</td> <td>6.14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scenario 1</td> <td>0</td> <td>0.74</td> <td>1.32</td> <td>3.46</td> <td>3.88</td> <td>4.28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scenario 2</td> <td>0</td> <td>0.42</td> <td>0.68</td> <td>2.47</td> <td>2.54</td> <td>2.59</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scenario 3</td> <td>0</td> <td>0.42</td> <td>0.68</td> <td>0.73</td> <td>0.62</td> <td>0.50</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29		£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	'Likely' scenario	0	0.65	1.10	5.40	6.11	6.14	Scenario 1	0	0.74	1.32	3.46	3.88	4.28	Scenario 2	0	0.42	0.68	2.47	2.54	2.59	Scenario 3	0	0.42	0.68	0.73	0.62	0.50														
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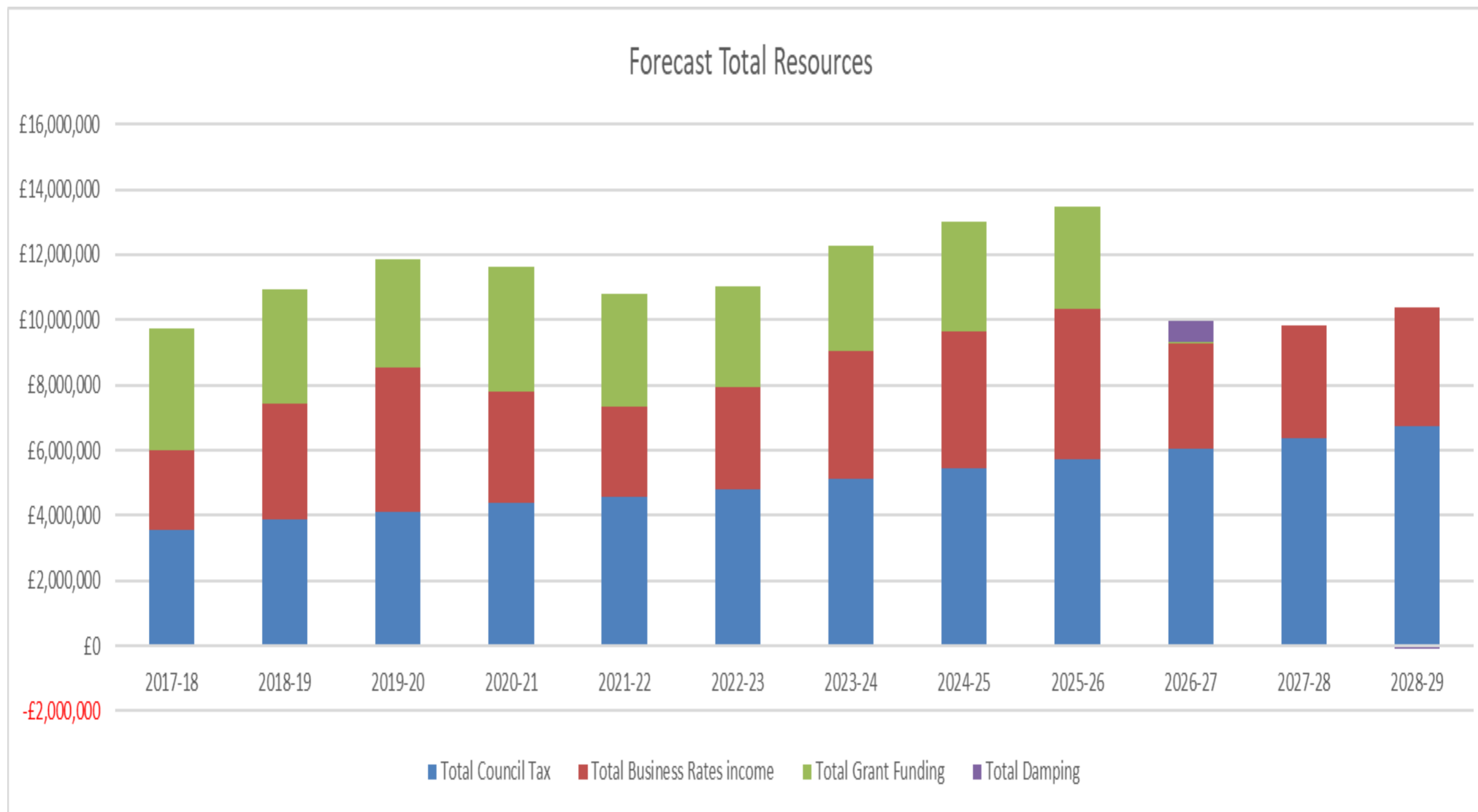
	<p style="text-align: center;">Alternative deficit scenario's</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Estimated data from the Alternative deficit scenario's chart</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>'Likely' scenario</th> <th>Scenario 1</th> <th>Scenario 2</th> <th>Scenario 3</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2023-24</td> <td>£0</td> <td>£0</td> <td>£0</td> <td>£0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2024-25</td> <td>£0.5m</td> <td>£0.8m</td> <td>£0.5m</td> <td>£0.4m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2025-26</td> <td>£1.2m</td> <td>£1.2m</td> <td>£0.8m</td> <td>£0.7m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2026-27</td> <td>£5.5m</td> <td>£3.5m</td> <td>£2.5m</td> <td>£0.8m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2027-28</td> <td>£6.1m</td> <td>£3.9m</td> <td>£2.6m</td> <td>£0.7m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2028-29</td> <td>£6.2m</td> <td>£4.3m</td> <td>£2.6m</td> <td>£0.5m</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	'Likely' scenario	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3	2023-24	£0	£0	£0	£0	2024-25	£0.5m	£0.8m	£0.5m	£0.4m	2025-26	£1.2m	£1.2m	£0.8m	£0.7m	2026-27	£5.5m	£3.5m	£2.5m	£0.8m	2027-28	£6.1m	£3.9m	£2.6m	£0.7m	2028-29	£6.2m	£4.3m	£2.6m	£0.5m
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6.1	<p>The funding gap highlighted in the previous section is significant. A shortfall of £6.14m by 28/29, if crystallised, represents savings of 37.3% to be found against our expected total net expenditure. Even in the short term, savings of £0.65m and £0.45m will be challenging given the demands on local government and the savings and income generated in previous years.</p>																																			
6.2	<p>To help address this forecast gap, a Deficit Reduction Programme (DRP) has been drawn together. The DRP highlights the actions which are currently being progressed by the Council to save money or generate income and presents them in the form of 'live' actions to address the following year budget gap. Longer term actions, to address the deficits in years 2 to 5 of the MTFS, which have not yet reached the stage of being actively taken forward, are summarized within the 'pipeline' actions.</p>																																			
6.3	<p>The DRP has worked well to support the council's financial position over the years of austerity and more recently. For the current year budget, over £1.3m of savings or additional income was identified and incorporated into the base budget. The level of savings and income ensured the council could invest heavily in its services in the current year with over £1.15m of growth approved despite the financial challenges that exist. Significant investment was made in services such as waste and recycling, the strategic local plan, IT & Cyber and licensing. More recently, identified actions have enabled the repurposing of existing budgets to fund a new Climate Change Officer.</p>																																			
6.4	<p>As a result of this identification and delivery of these savings, the current DRP has been depleted with less live and pipeline actions than in previous years. Live actions, to support the 24/25 budget are reasonably placed with an estimated £0.63m identified as being deliverable. If the MTFS projections are accurate, this would mean that the budget deficit before growth could be met but any desired growth would need to be funded by reserves or further savings quickly identified.</p>																																			

6.5	<p>The actions currently identified for 24/25 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased planning fees • In-cab technology • Reduced pension contributions • S106 monitoring fees • Trade waste cessation • Service digitisation 																																			
6.6	<p>Looking to the medium term and the pipeline actions, it is currently estimated that around £1.04m of further income or savings can be generated. Some of these actions are not as well developed as the live actions and will take further work to shape into actions to be taken forward. Some are also dependent on external factors, such as the development of the retail outlet at junction 9. The pipeline actions are summarized in the table at 6.8.</p>																																			
6.7	<p>Whilst £1.67m of potential savings and income have been identified at this stage, this still leaves a significant gap to reach the potential target of £6.14m and many further actions are likely to be needed. Renewed focus and drive is required from the whole organization to identify and commit to making cost reductions or income generation.</p> <p>To support this, the Chief Officer Group will recommence the review of the breadth and depth of services currently offered by the Council, engaging with service management to understand future challenges and opportunities in each area as well as across the council as a whole. This work was originally started in the Winter of 2022 but put on hold to allow for the management restructure and other priority targets to be delivered. It is envisaged that this piece of work will be ongoing given the financial challenges the Council faces with updates being provided to the Transform Working group and recommendations taken on to Executive Committee and Council if required.</p> <p>Whilst no decisions have been made at this stage and no hard costings undertaken, a very high level estimate of the types of savings that may be achievable is included in the table at 6.8 under future actions.</p>																																			
6.8	<p>Bringing together the live actions, pipeline actions and future potential actions a total of £3.63m may be generated to meet the forecast funding gap.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="236 1361 1364 1731"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;">Live DRP projects £m</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Pipeline DRP projects £m</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Future actions £m</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Total £m</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Income</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.37</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.78</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.45</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Employee cost base</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.10</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.10</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.20</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Service efficiency & digitalisation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.10</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.06</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.56</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.72</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Service cessation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.07</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.30</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.37</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Contractual arrangements</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.00</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.10</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.45</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">0.63</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1.04</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1.96</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3.63</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Live DRP projects £m	Pipeline DRP projects £m	Future actions £m	Total £m	Income	0.37	0.78	0.45	1.60	Employee cost base	0.10	0.10	0.20	0.39	Service efficiency & digitalisation	0.10	0.06	0.56	0.72	Service cessation	0.07	0.00	0.30	0.37	Contractual arrangements	0.00	0.10	0.45	0.55	Total	0.63	1.04	1.96	3.63
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	<p>It should be noted that any service reviews / reduction in employee costs / potential redundancies would be the subject of detailed proposals and consultation with the affected staff and trade unions at the appropriate time and before any decisions are made.</p>																																			
6.9	<p>Even with the additional savings that may be presented by a root and branch review of the Council, it is unlikely that sufficient savings or income will be found to close the funding gap in its entirety. The Council will be reliant on the government providing more</p>																																			

	<p>funding, in the order of £2.5m, to ensure the future sustainability of the organization. This could be in the form of a different direction to funding reform, greater retention of local business rates, a replacement New Homes Bonus scheme, greater freedom for council tax setting or simply more funding in total to support local government than currently envisaged. It is hoped that the 3% Funding Guarantee introduced for 2023/24 is the first sign that the government is aware of the funding issues affecting District Councils and further support will be available over the course of this Medium Term Financial Strategy.</p>
<p>6.1 0</p>	<p>Whilst the Council hopes for better funding settlements in the future, it will plan for the worst and look to establish a savings programme to close the full gap identified. As that programme is being developed and the government forms long terms plans to sustainably fund local government, the council may need to utilize reserves to balance the budget. The Council has £3m set aside to meet budget shortfalls and will look to boost this if in-year surpluses are achieved. It should however be remembered that the use of reserves is only a short term fix to budget deficits and cost reductions or income/funding increases will be needed to place the council on a sustainable long term footing.</p>

Appendix A - Forecast Total Resources

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Baseline Funding Level	1.92	1.92	1.95	1.99	2.03	2.07
Revenue Support Grant	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.02	-0.02	-0.06
Retained Business Rates	1.98	2.27	2.64	1.25	1.42	1.60
Rural Services Delivery Grant	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
New Homes Bonus	1.24	1.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lower Tier Services Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Services Grant	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00
Council Tax	5.13	5.43	5.73	6.04	6.38	6.72
Funding Guarantee	1.78	1.87	2.92	0.00	0.00	0.00
Damping Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.62	-0.01	-0.01
Total Resources	12.28	12.99	13.49	9.94	9.82	10.33
Change in Total Resources (£m)	1.27	0.71	0.50	-3.55	-0.12	0.51
Change in Total Resources (%)	11.50%	5.74%	3.87%	-26.30%	-1.26%	5.23%





Appendix D - Forecast Net Expenditure

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Employees	12.69	13.47	13.83	14.16	14.47	14.74
Premises	0.80	0.86	0.88	0.92	0.94	0.95
Transport	0.07	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08
Supplies & Services	2.35	2.50	2.58	2.63	2.68	2.73
Third party payments	8.72	9.13	9.41	9.59	9.76	9.93
Housing Benefits	11.67	11.09	10.54	10.02	9.52	9.05
Income	-25.15	-25.07	-24.53	-24.10	-23.78	-23.49
Other funding	-0.76	-0.53	-0.53	-0.53	-0.53	-0.53
Minimum Revenue Provision	0.93	0.95	0.97	1.00	1.02	1.05
Transfer to reserves	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96
Net budget	12.28	13.44	14.20	14.74	15.13	15.47
Change in net budget (£m)	1.26	1.16	0.75	0.54	0.39	0.34
Change in net budget (%)	11.45%	9.42%	5.61%	3.84%	2.62%	2.26%

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Executive
Date of Meeting:	29 November 2023
Subject:	Tewkesbury Garden Town - Programme Delegations
Report of:	Executive Director: Place
Head of Service/Director:	Chief Executive
Lead Member:	Leader of the Council / Lead Member for Built Environment
Number of Appendices:	None

Executive Summary:

On 26 September 2023, following a programme gateway review, the Council approved a new governance structure for the Garden Town programme and, subsequent to this, work has begun to implement the enhanced governance arrangements, which was a key recommendation of the review. For this governance structure to be effective, a level of delegation is now required so that various workstreams can progress at pace and at the correct time, with updates presented to the Executive (and Council) every three months. To progress the Garden Town programme, as well as meet the expectations of all stakeholders, a critical path for delivery needs to be followed. Whilst the joint strategic local plan process continues, parallel actions are also required to provide certainty for stakeholders and continue to foster investment, leverage government funding, deliver fulsome stakeholder engagement and good place making in line with Garden Town principles. The work streams that make up the programme's critical path are centred on bringing forward development and infrastructure proposals in-line with the aspirations and ambitions of the Council and the community while helping manage the risk of speculative planning applications, noting that these are always subject to the statutory planning process. Therefore, to best progress the various workstreams, it is requested that Executive recommend to Council to grant the delegated authorities set out below.

Recommendation:

To RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to:

- i) prepare bids for external revenue funding to support the delivery of the Garden Town programme;**
- ii) accept grants of external revenue funding and agree any terms and conditions associated with those awards;**
- iii) deploy the revenue resources in line with the funding bids and the Garden Town programme following the Council's normal procedures for procurement and the appointment of staff;**
- iv) ensure continued stakeholder engagement related to the programme takes place informed by production of a Tewkesbury Garden Town Charter for subsequent, specific approval by Council in February 2024;**

- v) undertake activities to progress the Garden Town programme, including sourcing potential partner capital funding, whilst seeking specific Council approval for:
 - acceptance of any partner grant for capital works; and
 - acting as lead for delivery of infrastructure elements of the programme where necessary; and
- vi) provide quarterly update reports to Council on progress with the Garden Town programme.

Financial Implications:

The scope of continued activities of the Garden Town programme will be subject to the award of further revenue funding from Homes England, as the lead agency for the national Garden Town programme.

Legal Implications:

The Council has the power to accept capacity funding under s1-3 of the Localism Act 2011. One Legal on behalf of Council will review any capacity grant funding agreement before it is signed on behalf of the Council to advise on the conditions of the grant and to ensure that there are no unusual or onerous conditions associated with the grant award.

Environmental and Sustainability Implications:

Environmental and sustainability implications associated with the development of the Garden Town proposals will be managed within the programme with environmental improvements, flooding infrastructure and biodiversity net gain being emphasised as key deliverables.

Resource Implications (including impact on equalities):

Implications arising from the implementation of the recommendations and the new programme are addressed in the relevant sections of this report.

Safeguarding Implications:

There are no safeguarding implications resulting directly from this report.

Impact on the Customer:

A key recommendation from the recent Garden Town review was to create a transparent governance structure and enhanced community involvement. This is reflected within these recommendations to enable the new governance structure and continuing stakeholder engagement to be implemented to better deliver planning for the garden town.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Tewkesbury Garden Town was identified within the government’s garden communities programme in March 2019. A garden town is defined as a ‘holistically planned development, which enhances the natural environment, tackles climate change and provides high quality housing locally and accessible jobs in beautiful, healthy and sociable communities.’

- 1.2 A priority for the Council in respect of the garden town is to ensure that development is promoted by the Council, rather than being developer led. The Council is committed to ensuring development is well planned and delivers the expected social, economic and environmental benefits central to the principles behind the national Garden Communities programme. The Council can ensure that the best interests of the new and existing local communities are best addressed side-by-side, with appropriate, timely infrastructure improvements being secured to complement an overall managed development approach
- 1.3 Following the recent gateway review and ongoing implementation of its recommendations, delivery of the programme's key actions requires delegated authority to ensure that the new governance structure is efficient and effective. This report therefore highlights the pressing delegated authorities necessary to move the programme forward.

2.0 RESOURCES

- 2.1 The Tewkesbury Garden Town programme has been funded to date through grant from Homes England Garden Communities programme and a recent bid to extend this support has been submitted – as requested by Homes England – requesting revenue resource funding for enhanced engagement and project management capacity, including development and production of a Garden Town Charter document, as well as master planning and transport expert advice.
- 2.2 Whilst the final details are not yet confirmed, the bid covered funding until end of the current financial year as well as an indicative request for future years. Following any final agreement, work will need to continue to prepare job descriptions, so that once confirmed recruitment can take place.
- 2.3 At this stage it is expected that resource funding support will only cover this financial year and so recruitment is most likely to consist of contract-based staff to deliver key activities.
- 2.4 In addition to implementation of any further approved resource funding, delegated authority is also sought to explore opportunities for third party capital funding when these present themselves. Such funding can help in unlocking development within the garden town as well as supporting the viability of development. This proposed delegated authority will allow bids to be discussed/submitted with the relevant partners and grant bodies, where appropriate and accepts that if successful, a further report to Council will be made asking for approval to accept such a grant and will outline the relevant terms.

3.0 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 Through the new governance structure and ongoing stakeholder engagement programme, consultation will continue with all stakeholders on the programme's evolution and subsequent delivery.

4.0 ASSOCIATED RISKS

- 4.1 To support the delivery of the Garden Town, especially to the principles and aspirations of the Council and community, there is the need to bring forward external funding for both revenue and capital projects as well as to coordinate with developers in the Council's capacity as promoter, separate from the Council's development management function. To be successful, there is the need to continue the programme workstreams and therefore manage the critical path for delivery through these delegations, the risk is for timely progression of key programme actions to be mitigated.

5.0 MONITORING

5.1 The revised governance arrangements include a number of review and check points to ensure full oversight and monitoring of the garden town programme. Most importantly, it schedules a regular review of risks associated with the programme so that, appropriate mitigation can be implemented.

6.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES/COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

6.1 The transparent, inclusive delivery of the Garden Town programme is a priority within the emerging Council Plan.

Background Papers: None

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Appendices: None

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	29 November 2023
Subject:	Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) and Annual Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Rate Summary Statement
Report of:	CIL Manager
Head of Service/Director:	Associate Director: Planning
Lead Member:	Lead Member for Built Environment
Number of Appendices:	2

Executive Summary:

All Councils which charge Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and secure developer contributions by way of Section 106 (S106) agreements have a statutory obligation to prepare the following:

- An Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) (Appendix 1) and
- An annual CIL Rate Summary Statement (Appendix 2).

The Infrastructure Funding Statement must include an Infrastructure List (Chapter 3 of the IFS), to help guide future priorities for allocation of strategic community infrastructure funding monies.

Regulation 121A requires the Council, as a contribution receiving authority to publish an IFS annually, no later than the 31 December, that sets out details about planning obligations and CIL income and expenditure, actual and anticipated for the last reported year ending on the 31 March, and an Infrastructure List; and

Regulation 121C(1) requires an annual CIL Rate Summary Statement to be published no earlier than 2 December and no later than 31 December updated in line with the CIL Index published by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) for the 1 November each year.

Regulations referred to are the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended).

Recommendations:

To RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL:

1. That publication of the Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS), relating to the financial year ending 31st March 2023, by 31st December 2023, be **APPROVED**; and
2. That the Annual Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Rate Summary Statement be published alongside the Infrastructure Funding Statement by 31 December 2023.

<p>Financial Implications:</p> <p>None as work undertaken within existing resources and budgets.</p>
<p>Legal Implications:</p> <p>The production of an Infrastructure Funding Statement at least annually, including a Regulation 121A 'Infrastructure List', is a statutory obligation as a result of amendments to the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 by the Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) (England) (No.2) Regulations 2019. As is the publication of the annual CIL Rate Summary Statement.</p> <p>The same 2019 amendments also revoked, as of 1 September 2019, Regulation 123 thereby removing the restrictions there had been previously, both on the pooling of monies from s106 obligations and also the spending of both CIL and Section 106 (S106) monies on the same infrastructure.</p>
<p>Environmental and Sustainability Implications:</p> <p>None as a result of meeting our statutory reporting obligations, though the effective use of CIL receipts themselves has the potential to have a positive impact on all 3 dimensions of sustainable development.</p>
<p>Resource Implications (including impact on equalities):</p> <p>None.</p>
<p>Safeguarding Implications:</p> <p>None.</p>
<p>Impact on the Customer:</p> <p>The IFS provides clarity and transparency for communities and developers on the funding that has been raised and spent and on the infrastructure that has been and is expected to be delivered.</p>

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council's fourth IFS has been prepared ready for submission¹ and publication on our website by 31 December 2023².
- 1.2 The IFS (Appendix 1) must include reports on the previous financial year, ending on the 31 March, for both CIL and S106 Planning Contributions as well as an Infrastructure List.
- 1.3 An annual 'CIL Rate Summary Statement' (Appendix 2), applying the national CIL index³ and setting out the charges for the following calendar year, must also be published in December⁴.

¹ Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC), formerly Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)

² Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended) Regulation 121A

³ Published by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) on the 1st November each year

⁴ Regulation 121C(1) requires it to be published "no earlier than 2nd December and no later than 31st December"

1.4 The 'Infrastructure List' is a list of the infrastructure projects or types of infrastructure which "the charging authority intends will be, or may be, wholly or partly funded by CIL".

1.5 The Infrastructure List is shared by the three Joint Core Strategy (JCS) Councils – Cheltenham Borough, Gloucester City and Tewkesbury Borough - reflecting their co-operation on the JCS and its successor, the 'Strategic and Local Plan' (SLP). Previous reporting has highlighted that the agreed Infrastructure List is not representative of current priorities. As such the JCS/SLP Councils, alongside Gloucestershire County Council, have prepared an interim Infrastructure List. This recognises that a full reassessment of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (upon which the agreed Infrastructure List was based) is required and this will take place alongside the preparation of the SLP but cannot wait until that is completed to better reflect current priorities. A further report is being prepared for Executive Committee and Council separately which seeks:

1. Approval of the establishment of a Joint Committee to facilitate governance of the allocation of CIL funding for strategic Infrastructure from receipts received by Cheltenham Borough, Gloucester City and Tewkesbury Borough Councils; and
2. Agreement of pooling arrangements by the three Joint Committee partner Councils, managed through CIL Joint Committee Terms of Reference.

1.6 Further detail on the interim Infrastructure List is provided in section 2.3 of this report.

2.0 INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING STATEMENT

2.1 IFS – CIL Report

2.1.1 In the 'reporting year' (1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023):

- CIL Receipts = **£4,561,624.23**
- CIL Expenditure by the borough council = **£225,334.53**
- CIL Expenditure by the parish councils = **£55,109.07**
- CIL Passed to parish councils = **£466,910.11** (**£223,725.37** of which raised in previous year)

2.1.2 At the end of the 'reporting year' (31st March 2023):

- CIL Receipts Retained by the Borough Council = **£7,468,206.30**; made up of the following:
 - **£414,919.76** Neighbourhood Funding⁵ collected by the Borough Council between the 1st October and the 31st March of the reported year to be paid to Parish Councils on the 28th April of the next reported year (2023); and
 - **£7,053,286.54** Strategic Infrastructure funding made up of **£3,620,504.81** from receipts in the reporting year and **£3,432,781.73** from previous years, for infrastructure required to deliver planned development.

⁵ Regulation 59A Neighbourhood

- 2.1.3** The Council may use up to 5% of CIL receipts to support administration. The JCS/SLP Councils currently pool their administration funding; this supports the employment of a CIL Manager and CIL Officer, together with the required computer and systems software, and membership costs such as the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), Building Cost Information Service (BCIS) Subscription etc. The CIL Regulations allow the repayment of expenses incurred prior to the publication of the Charging Schedule over the first three years; however, the repayment of set-up costs, along with the ongoing administration of CIL must not exceed 5% in each year. During this period, to 31 March 2022, the 5% funding did not cover all set-up and operating costs and additional funding was provided through the JCS/SLP councils shared commitment and funding of the JCS and its approach to the preparation of the SLP.
- 2.1.4** Appropriate administrative expenses associated with CIL that can be recovered from the 5% are broadly set out in the CIL [guidance](#), these include the costs of the functions required to establish and run a levy charging scheme. These functions include levy set-up costs, such as consultation on the levy charging schedule, preparing evidence on viability or the costs of the levy examination. There are similar costs associated with amending a levy charging schedule. They also include ongoing functions like establishing and running billing and payment systems, enforcing the levy, the legal costs associated with payments in-kind and monitoring and reporting on levy activity.
- 2.1.5** Over time as the CIL pots grow, Tewkesbury Borough Council will wish to fully recover all liable costs, both joint and those arising from Tewkesbury Borough only. This element is kept under regular review.

2.2 IFS – S106 Report

2.2.1 At the start of April 2022, there was a balance of **£9,166,102.72**

2.2.2 During the ‘reporting year’ the Council:

- Received **£2,150,370.63**; and
- Spent **£712,926.66**

2.2.3 At the end of March 2023 there was a closing balance of **£10,226,958.65**

2.2.4 The S106 report also provides details of the **£151,776.25 off-site financial contributions** and **123 affordable homes** secured in agreements entered into during the reporting year.

2.3 IFS – Infrastructure List

2.3.1 The ‘Infrastructure List’ identifies projects which may need wholly or partly funding from CIL individually and those which the JCS/SLP partners share.

2.3.2 The preparation of the SLP is now underway and provides the appropriate context for a full review of the Infrastructure List informed by updated evidence on infrastructure demands and delivery and by the priorities of the three councils, including our commitment to tackle climate change, achieve modal shift away from private car use and reflect changing patterns of work following the pandemic, the Council’s Corporate Plan, including our 2030 net zero objectives.

2.3.3 The interim Infrastructure List will cover the transition to the SLP. Relevant to the decision making of this report are those elements relating only to Tewkesbury Borough Council and those elements which are shared. Chapter 3 of the IFS also includes those items identified by Cheltenham Borough, Gloucester City and Gloucestershire County Councils. Gloucester City and Cheltenham Borough Councils will be reporting on their priorities for the interim Infrastructure List through their reporting procedures.

2.3.4 There is a larger piece of engagement work ongoing with infrastructure providers outside the local authorities to identify any wider infrastructure priorities.

2.4 THE ANNUAL CIL RATE SUMMARY STATEMENT

2.4.1 The annual CIL Rate Summary Statement (Appendix 2) is based on the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyor's (RICS) CIL Index, published in November each year. Indexation is required so that the rates the Council charge are adjusted to take account of the costs of development and inflation. Whilst the most common index is the Retail Prices Index (RPI), published by the Office for National Statistics, the CIL Regulations require the Council to use the CIL Index published by RICS.

3.0 NEXT STEPS

3.1 Publication on the Council's website and submission and notification of the location of data to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities by end December 2023.

3.2 Alongside the preparation of the SLP, ensure the infrastructure needed to accommodate planned future development is fully considered through ongoing engagement with a full range of infrastructure providers, including running an open and transparent bidding process with the aim of producing a comprehensive Infrastructure Delivery Plan, from which schemes which meet not only the needs of new development but also the priorities of the Council may be selected for inclusion on a deliverable future Infrastructure List to support the new plan.

4.0 CONSULTATION

4.1 None.

5.0 ASSOCIATED RISKS

5.1 Failure to publish the required statements would be a breach of regulations.

6.0 MONITORING

6.1 Statutory obligation to produce an IFS annually requires detailed accounts of income and expenditure for both CIL and S106 to be maintained to ensure that the flow of 'income-purpose-expenditure' is transparent.

The updated Infrastructure List is included in the IFS (Appendix 1); however, the list will continue to be reviewed, at least annually, alongside the preparation of the Infrastructure Funding Statement.

7.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES/COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

7.1 Joint Core Strategy 2011 to 2031(December 2017).

Joint Core Strategy 2011 to 2031 Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2014) and Addendum (2017).

Background Papers: None

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Appendices: Appendix 1 - Draft Tewkesbury Borough Council Infrastructure Funding Statement 2023

Appendix 2 – Draft Tewkesbury Borough Council Annual CIL Rate Summary Statement 2023



Tewkesbury Borough Council Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement

2022/23

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1. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY REPORT

Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations (2019 Amendment) Regulation 121A Schedule 2 Section 1

Reporting Year: From 01 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

OPENING POSITION

Administration

The amount of unspent CIL, collected **before the reported year**, assigned for administration costs was **£0.00**

Neighbourhood

Parish Council Neighbourhood Funding

The amount of unspent CIL, collected **before the reported year**, assigned for Regulation 59A Neighbourhood CIL:

- Held by Charging Authority for payment on 28 April 2022 was **£223,725.37**.
- Held by the Parish Councils was **£376,906.82**. This was held by:
 - Alderton PC £3,412.45
 - Bishops Cleeve PC £191,011.71

- Brockworth PC £101,535.96
- Churchdown PC £2,392.00
- Down Hatherley PC £17,011.96
- Gotherington PC £27,797.00
- Leigh, the £19,767.25
- Stanway PC £3,742.75
- Toddington PC £5,671.38
- Twyning PC £1,964.36
- Winchcombe PC £2,600.00

Infrastructure

The amount of unspent CIL, collected **before the reported year**, which was not allocated to Neighbourhood CIL or CIL Administration was **£3,432,781.73**.

IN YEAR ACTIVITY

Notices Issued

(a) The total value of CIL **Demand Notices** issued in the reported year was **£2,980,909.20**.

It should be noted that not all of this funding would have been expected to be received during the reported year as a result of the Council's adopted [Instalments Policy](#).

The total value of CIL **Liability Notices** issued in the reported year was **£2,964,570.14**.

It should be noted that not all of this potential funding would have been expected to be the subject of a demand notice during the reported year as a liability notice is not a demand for payment and evidence to justify deductions and claims for relief may still be submitted up until the commencement of development, after which a demand notice is issued.

Income In The Reported Year

(b) Total CIL income **in the reported year** was **£4,506,690.52**

The Council did not receive any land or infrastructure payments (i.e. the provision of land or infrastructure in lieu of paying CIL) during the reported year.

Surcharges and Late Payment Interest

The total value of **Surcharges** imposed due to breaches of the CIL Regulations was **£13,194.22** and the total value of the **late payment interest** accrued was **£3,144.84** during the reported year.

Income Before The Reported Year

(c) total CIL income **before** the reported year was **£4,319,668.01**.

The Council did not receive any land or infrastructure payments (i.e. the provision of land or infrastructure in lieu of paying CIL) before the reported year.

Administration

CIL income collected in and transferred to Tewkesbury Borough Council, as a contribution towards shared administration expenses, **in the reported year** was **£71,095.58**. This was made up of:

- Contribution of **£69,548.21** from Cheltenham Borough Council; and
- Contribution of **£1,547.37** from Gloucester City Council.

Neighbourhood

(l) Parish Council Neighbourhood Funding

CIL both collected and passed to Parish Councils **in the reported year** was: **£243,184.74**. This was for:

- Bishops Cleeve PC Neighbourhood Funding of **£81,862.16** from 18/01146/FUL paid on the 28 October 2022
- Bishops Cleeve PC Neighbourhood Funding of **£145,345.19** from 21/00214/APP paid on the 28 October 2022
- The Leigh PC Neighbourhood Funding of **£3,333.84** from 22/00194/APP paid on the 28 October 2022
- The Leigh PC Neighbourhood Funding of **£6,252.89** from 18/00173/FUL paid on the 28 October 2022
- Ashleworth PC Neighbourhood Funding of **£77.61** from 20/00602/FUL paid on the 28 October 2022
- Stanway PC Neighbourhood Funding of **£3,742.75** from 19/00752/FUL paid on the 28 October 2022
- Woodmancote PC Neighbourhood Funding of **£2,570.30** from 21/00938/FUL paid on the 28 October 2022

(d) CIL collected **before the reported year** but allocated in the reported year was **£223,725.37**. This was for:

- Down Hatherley PC Neighbourhood Funding of **£9,597.07** from 20/01179/FUL paid on the 28 April 2022
- Bishops Cleeve PC Neighbourhood Funding of **£11,718.08** from 19/00758/OUT paid on the 28 April 2022
- Bishops Cleeve PC Neighbourhood Funding of **£48,448.40** from 21/00214/APP paid on the 28 April 2022
- Bishops Cleeve PC Neighbourhood Funding of **£52,731.38** from 19/00758/OUT paid on the 28 April 2022
- Alderton PC Neighbourhood Funding of **£4,000.00** from 20/01282/FUL paid on the 28 April 2022
- Brockworth PC Neighbourhood Funding of **£8,439.60** from 19/00055/FUL paid on the 28 April 2022
- Brockworth PC Neighbourhood Funding of **£76,151.97** from 18/01239/FUL paid on the 28 April 2022
- The Leigh PC Neighbourhood Funding of **£12,638.87** from 18/00173/FUL paid on the 28 April 2022

It should be noted that:

- No payments were made to Parish Councils as a result of the Charging Authority receiving any 'payment in kind' during the reported year; and
- (j), (k) & (l) No CIL was either requested or returned to the Charging Authority in the reported year because it had not been spent within 5 years (Regulation 59E).
- (j), (k) & (l) As a fully parished borough no Regulation 59F Neighbourhood Funding was received or spent before or during the reported year.

Infrastructure

The amount of CIL, collected **in the reported year**, which was not allocated to Neighbourhood CIL or CIL Administration was **£3,620,504.81**.

Expenditure In The Reported Year

(e) Total CIL expenditure **in the reported year**, was **£166,854.82**. This was made up of:

- **£55,109.07** of Neighbourhood CIL reported by Parish Councils; and
- **£111,745.75** of Admin CIL.

Administration

CIL income **in the reported year** allocated for administration expenses was **£296,430.11**. This was made up of the following percentages of partners CIL income in the reported year:

- (g) (iii) Tewkesbury Borough Council - **£225,334.53** - 5% of the total CIL receipts collected (**£4,506,690.52**) in the reported year;
- Cheltenham Borough Council - **£69,548.21** - 5% of the total CIL receipts collected (**£1,390,933.44**) in the reported year; and
- Gloucester City Council - **£1,547.37** - <1% of the total CIL receipts collected (**£162,638.05**) in the reported year. When added to the **£6,584.54** spent on administration by Gloucester City Council directly this equals 5% (**£8,131.90**) of the total CIL receipts collected.

CIL income collected **before** to the reported year spent on administration was **£0.00**. This was 0% of the total CIL collected within the reported year.

Neighbourhood

Parish Council Neighbourhood Funding

(g) (i) Expenditure from CIL passed to Parish Councils in the reported year was reported as **£2,276.36**.

Parish Councils reported the following spending from CIL funds in the reported year:

Infrastructure	Amount	Date	Spend Description
Twynning PC Reg 59A	£1,964.36	10/10/2022	Footpath surfacing
Toddington PC Reg 59A	£312.00	05/05/2022	Parish Website Development - Planning Tracker Installed
From In Year Sub Total	£2,276.36		
Wheatpieces PC Reg 59A	£220.84	26/01/2023	Installation of solar panels on Community Centre
Wheatpieces PC Reg 59A	£50.00	24/01/2023	Solar Panel Installation Survey
Wheatpieces PC Reg 59A	£16,006.95	30/11/2022	Installation air conditioning and heating units at Community Centre – Part Payment
Wheatpieces PC Reg 59A	£250.00	05/10/2022	Building Regs for Solar Panels
Wheatpieces PC Reg 59A	£675.00	30/09/2022	Technical drawings for Solar Panel Planning Application
Wheatpieces PC Reg 59A	£5,541.80	07/09/2022	Installation air conditioning and heating units at Community Centre – Part Payment
Wheatpieces PC Reg 59A	£23,347.19	07/09/2022	Installation air conditioning and heating units at Community Centre – Part Payment

Infrastructure	Amount	Date	Spend Description
Wheatpieces PC Reg 59A	£6,571.93	07/09/2022	Installation air conditioning and heating units at Community Centre – Part Payment
Wheatpieces PC Reg 59A	£52.00	03/08/2022	Cleaning in main hall of Wheatpieces Community Centre required following work carried out by contractors
Wheatpieces PC Reg 59A	£117.00	22/07/2022	Planning Application Fee re Solar Panel installation
From Before Reported Year Sub Total	£52,832.71		
Total	£55,109.07		

Infrastructure

It should be noted that:

- No CIL, returned under Regulation 59E by Parish Councils, was spent by the Charging Authority, in the reported year;
- No CIL Income received either before, or in, the reported year has been spent on Infrastructure, including education and affordable housing; and
- (g) (ii) No CIL Income received either before, or in, the reported year has been spent on repaying money borrowed, including any interest.

Allocations

(f) CIL collected in the reported year that was allocated but not spent during the reported year was:

Type	Allocated	Spent	Remaining
Parish Neighbourhood CIL	£658,104.50	£2,276.36	£655,828.14

CLOSING POSITION

Administration

The amount of unspent CIL, collected in the reported year, assigned for administration costs is **£184,684.36**.

The amount of unspent CIL, collected **from 01 January 2018 to the end of the reported year**, assigned for administration costs is **£184,684.36** repayable to the JCS/SLP fund.

Neighbourhood

Parish Council Neighbourhood Funding

The amount of unspent CIL, collected **in the reported year**, assigned for Regulation 59A Neighbourhood CIL:

- Held by the Charging Authority for payment on 28 April 2023 was **£414,919.76**.
- The amount of unspent CIL, collected **from 01 January 2018 to the end of the reported year**, assigned for Regulation 59A Neighbourhood CIL and held by the Parish Councils was **£847,162.83**. This was held by:
 - Alderton PC **£7,412.45**
 - Ashleworth PC **£77.61**
 - Bishops Cleeve PC **£531,116.92**
 - Brockworth PC **£195,492.54**
 - Churchdown PC **£2,392.00**
 - Down Hatherley PC **£26,609.03**
 - Gotherington PC **£27,797.00**
 - Leigh, the PC **£41,992.85**
 - Stanway PC **£3,742.75**
 - Toddington PC **£5,359.38**

- Winchcombe PC **£2,600.00**
- Woodmancote PC **£2,570.30**

It should be noted that:

- No CIL was outstanding for recovery from Parish Councils under Regulation 59E at the end of the reported year.

Infrastructure

The amount of unspent CIL, collected **in the reported year**, which was not allocated to Neighbourhood CIL or CIL Administration was **£3,620,504.81**.

(h) The amount of unspent CIL, collected **from 01 January 2018 to the end of the reported year**, which was not allocated to Neighbourhood CIL or CIL Administration was **£7,053,286.54**.

2. SECTION 106 REPORT

Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations (2019 Amendment) Regulation 121A Schedule 2 Section 3

OPENING POSITION

Money Held At The Start Of The Reported Year

(i) The total amount of money retained at the start of the reported year was **£9,166,102.72**.

IN YEAR ACTIVITY

Obligations Entered Into Or Accepted During The Reported Year

(a) The total amount of money agreed, in planning agreements which were **entered-into during the reported year**, to be paid in the future by developers was **£151,776.25**. This figure does not include indexation (inflation/deflation) that will be added, if necessary, when a payment is due or sums for future maintenance that are commuted requiring calculation and payment in the future.

Planning Reference	Site Address	Signature Date	Amount	Notes
21/00976/OUT	Land off Brook Lane, Twigworth.	09/08/2022	£11,680.00	This payment is for the funding of Refuse and Recycling.
21/00976/OUT	Land off Brook Lane, Twigworth.	09/08/2022	£3,000.00	This payment is for Monitoring.

21/00976/OUT	Land off Brook Lane, Twigworth.	09/08/2022	£tbc	This payment is for Commuted Sum for Maintenance of Public Open Space.
21/01036/FUL	Innsworth House Farm, Innsworth.	18/11/2022	£1,241.00	This payment is for the funding of Refuse and Recycling.
21/01036/FUL	Innsworth House Farm, Innsworth.	18/11/2022	£1,500.00	This payment is for Monitoring.
19/01201/FUL	Fortitude, Birdlip Hill, Witcombe.	22/12/2022	£300.00	This payment is for Monitoring.
19/01201/FUL	Fortitude, Birdlip Hill, Witcombe.	22/12/2022	£925.00	This payment is for Legal Costs.
19/00772/FUL	Land Parcel 0088, Willow Bank Road, Alderton.	07/02/2023	£25,898.25	This payment is for Affordable Housing to be provided off-site.
19/00772/FUL	Land Parcel 0088, Willow Bank Road, Alderton.	07/02/2023	£23,072.00	This payment is for Play Facilities to be provided off-site.
19/00772/FUL	Land Parcel 0088, Willow Bank Road, Alderton.	07/02/2023	£2,044.00	This payment is for the funding of Refuse and Recycling.

19/00772/FUL	Land Parcel 0088, Willow Bank Road, Alderton.	07/02/2023	£2,500.00	This payment is for Monitoring.
21/00496/FUL	Land West of Delavale Road, Winchcombe.	09/03/2023	£69,816.00	This payment is for Playing Fields to be provided off-site.
21/00496/FUL	Land West of Delavale Road, Winchcombe.	09/03/2023	£7,300.00	This payment is for the funding of Refuse and Recycling.
21/00496/FUL	Land West of Delavale Road, Winchcombe.	09/03/2023	£tbc	This payment is for Commuted Sum for Maintenance of the LEAP.
21/00496/FUL	Land West of Delavale Road, Winchcombe.	09/03/2023	£2,500.00	This payment is for Monitoring.
21/00496/FUL	Land West of Delavale Road, Winchcombe.	09/03/2023	£tbc	This payment is for Commuted Sum for Maintenance of Public Open Space.
		TOTAL	£151,776.25	

The total number of affordable housing units, in planning agreements which were **entered-into during the reported year**, to be provided from the off-site funding allocation of **£25,898.25** is **0 dwellings**.

(d) (i) Planning agreements **entered-into during the reported year** secured the following, non-monetary, contributions of infrastructure provided on-site:

Planning Reference	Site Address	Signature Date	Number	Notes
21/00976/OUT	Land off Brook Lane, Twigworth.	21/10/2022	56 dwellings	This agreement is for Affordable Housing to be provided on-site.
21/01036/FUL	Innsworth House Farm, Innsworth.	18/11/2022	6 dwellings	This agreement is for Affordable Housing to be provided on-site. Whilst a minimum of 6 dwellings has been secured an additional 11 dwellings is proposed making the whole development affordable with 17 dwellings.
19/00772/FUL	Land Parcel 0088, Willow Bank Road, Alderton.	07/02/2023	11 dwellings	This agreement is for Affordable Housing to be provided on-site.
21/00496/FUL	Land West of Delavale Road, Winchcombe.	09/03/2023	50 dwellings	This agreement is for Affordable Housing to be provided on-site.
		TOTAL	123 dwellings	

The total number of affordable housing units, in planning agreements which were **entered-into during the reported year**, to be provided on-site is **123 dwellings**.

It should be noted that:

(d) (ii) Education provisions will not be included in this report as, in this two-tier authority area, Gloucestershire County Council will be publishing its own Infrastructure Funding Statement. The County Council will include details of planning obligations it has secured by way of S106, as well as S278 in its areas of competence. The County Council's Infrastructure Funding Statements can be found by following this link: [Infrastructure Funding Statement \(IFS\) - Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Income In The Reported Year

(b) The total amount of money from planning obligations **received during the reported year** was **£2,150,370.63**

Planning Reference	Site Address	Received Date	Amount	Notes
16/00738/OUT	Parcel 3745 Cheltenham Road East Churchdown Gloucester Gloucestershire	30/06/2021	-£31,957.83	POB342 : Community Facilities Contribution - Extension or Improvement at GL3 Community Hub
19/00537/APP (12/01256/OUT)	PHASE 1 - Land At Perrybrook, North Brockworth, GL3 4QY	17/05/2022	£869.28	POB365 : Dog Bins & Signs - Signage
19/00537/APP (12/01256/OUT)	PHASE 1 - Land At Perrybrook, North Brockworth, GL3 4QY	17/05/2022	£8,692.80	POB366 : Dog Bins & Signs - Bins
19/00537/APP (12/01256/OUT)	PHASE 1 - Land At Perrybrook, North Brockworth, GL3 4QY	17/05/2022	£1,352.21	POB367 : Refuse and recycling
16/00738/OUT	Parcel 3745, Cheltenham Road East, Churchdown, Glos	17/05/2022	£6,661.45	POB368 : Dog Bins & Signs
16/00738/OUT	Parcel 3745, Cheltenham Road East, Churchdown, Glos	14/04/2022	£38,057.40	POB369 : Refuse and recycling
16/00738/OUT	Parcel 3745, Cheltenham Road East, Churchdown, Glos	17/05/2022	£231,573.20	POB370 : Playing Pitches
19/00772/FUL	Land Parcel 0088, Willow Bank Road, Alderton	05/07/2022	£28,345.95	POB374 : AH Contribution

19/00772/FUL	Land Parcel 0088, Willow Bank Road, Alderton	05/07/2022	£25,252.59	POB375 : Play Facilities
19/00772/FUL	Land Parcel 0088, Willow Bank Road, Alderton	05/07/2022	£2,237.18	POB376 : Public Recycling
19/00772/FUL	Land Parcel 0088, Willow Bank Road, Alderton	05/07/2022	£2,736.28	POB377 : S106 Monitoring Fee
08/01221/OUT	Land At, Kennel Lane	08/07/2022	£232,881.42	POB373 : Open Space Commuted Sum
20/01119/FUL	Garage Site 4, Bishops Drive	11/08/2022	£750.00	POB378 : S106 Monitoring Fee
98/636/9399/FUL	Whitefields Road Bishops Cleeve	30/04/2022	£978.01	POB371 : POS On Site Maintenance Sum (4.3)
18/01239/FUL	Land Adjacent To Hucclecote Road And Golf Club Lane	12/08/2022	£13,632.75	POB379 : Public Recycling - S106 Provided on Site
18/01239/FUL	Land Adjacent To Hucclecote Road And Golf Club Lane	12/08/2022	£13,632.75	POB380 : Dog Bins & Signs - S106 Contribution
18/01239/FUL	Land Adjacent To Hucclecote Road And Golf Club Lane	12/08/2022	£56,250.00	POB381 : Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

18/00249/OUT	Land At Stoke Road, Bishops Cleeve, GL52 7DG	26/08/2022	£17,014.70	POB383 : Recycling Contribution
20/00245/FUL	Former Nortenham Allotments, Land West Of The A435, Bishops Cleeve	10/10/2022	£2,774.79	POB384 : S106 Monitoring Fee
18/00249/OUT	Land At Stoke Road, Bishops Cleeve, GL52 7DG	06/10/2022	£86,726.73	POB385 : Pitches & Changing Rooms S106 Contribution
05/00883/OUT	Land to East of Tewkesbury Road & North of Longford Lane Longford	07/09/2022	£283,366.66	POB386 : POS Commuted Sum
16/00738/OUT	Parcel 3745, Cheltenham Road East, Churchdown, Glos	14/10/2022	£230,480.23	POB387 : Sports Facilities Off Site Contributions
14/00838/FUL	Land to west of farm lane - Shurdington	18/07/2022	£9,926.72	POB388 : S106 Monitoring Fee (including interest for late payment)
21/00007/FUL	Henley Bank Kennels, Mill Lane, Brockworth	31/10/2022	£1,183.96	POB389 : Public Recycling - S106 Provided on Site
14/01233/FUL	Part Parcel 7346, Evesham Road, Bishops Cleeve	08/02/2023	£401.55	POB390 : Dog Bins & Signs

14/01233/FUL	Part Parcel 7346, Evesham Road, Bishops Cleeve	08/02/2023	£1,571.29	POB391 : Public Recycling Contributions
14/01233/FUL	Part Parcel 7346, Evesham Road, Bishops Cleeve	08/02/2023	£52,593.44	POB392 : Sports Facilities Off Site Contributions
14/01233/FUL	Part Parcel 7346, Evesham Road, Bishops Cleeve	08/02/2023	£13,683.51	POB393 : Sports Facilities Off Site (Indoor) Contributions
21/00976/OUT	Land Off Brook Lane, Twigworth	31/10/2022	£1,100.00	POB394 : S106 Monitoring Fee (for AH)
21/00976/OUT	Land Off Brook Lane, Twigworth	31/10/2022	£1,941.16	POB395 : S106 Monitoring Fee (for POS)
17/01203/FUL	Land South Of The A46 And North Of Tirlle Brook	24/11/2022	£248,552.02	POB396 : S106 Enhance Public Contribution 1st
20/00140/OUT	Land Off A38 Coombe Hill	18/11/2022	£5,483.56	POB397 : Notice - Household information packs
20/00140/OUT	Land Off A38 Coombe Hill	18/11/2022	£2,886.08	POB398 : S106 Monitoring Fee

20/00140/OUT	Land Off A38 Coombe Hill	18/11/2022	£114,533.24	POB399 : Wildlife - S106 Contribution
20/00140/OUT	Land Off A38 Coombe Hill	18/11/2022	£8,006.00	POB400 : Public Recycling Provided on site
17/01078/FUL	Land Off Broadway Road, Part Parcel 9070	09/12/2022	£123,965.32	POB401 : Affordable Housing Contribution
17/00852/OUT	Yew Tree Farm, Tewkesbury Road, Twigworth, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL2 9PP	13/02/2023	£42,460.57	POB402 : Community Centre
17/00852/OUT	Yew Tree Farm, Tewkesbury Road, Twigworth, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL2 9PP	13/02/2023	£28,988.48	POB403 : Pitches & Changing Rooms Changing Rooms
17/00852/OUT	Yew Tree Farm, Tewkesbury Road, Twigworth, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL2 9PP	13/02/2023	£34,629.19	POB404 : Sports Hall
17/00852/OUT	Yew Tree Farm, Tewkesbury Road, Twigworth, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL2 9PP	13/02/2023	£83,558.29	POB405 : Pitches & Changing Rooms the Playing Pitches Contribution
15/00749/OUT	Land North Of Innsworth Lane Innsworth	10/03/2023	£41,722.67	POB406 : Waste Disposal for the 1st phase

15/00749/OUT	Land North Of Innsworth Lane Innsworth	10/03/2023	£4,445.51	POB407 : Dog Waste Bins Contribution
15/00749/OUT	Land North Of Innsworth Lane Innsworth	10/03/2023	£2,857.72	POB408 : Dog Signage Contribution
17/00863/FUL	Land Adjacent To Cornerways	22/11/2018	£424.00	POB409 : NHS Contribution
17/00863/FUL	Land Adjacent To Cornerways	22/11/2018	£1,254.00	POB411 : Pitches & Changing Rooms
17/00863/FUL	Land Adjacent To Cornerways	22/11/2018	£73.00	POB412 : Public Recycling
17/00863/FUL	Land Adjacent To Cornerways	22/11/2018	£430.00	POB413 : Village Hall Contribution
18/00173/FUL	Land Adjacent To The Swan, Tewkesbury Road, Coombe Hill, Gloucester	24/02/2023	£8,228.70	POB414 : Wildlife - S106 Contribution
14/01233/FUL	Part Parcel 7346, Evesham Road, Bishops Cleeve	03/03/2023	£25,230.52	POB415 : Play Facilities S106 Contribution
14/00343/OUT	Land Behind Newton Cottages, Ashchurch Rd	31/03/2023	£417.22	POB416 : Dog Waste Bins Contribution
14/00343/OUT	Land Behind Newton Cottages, Ashchurch Rd	31/03/2023	£262.25	POB417 : Dog Signage Contribution

14/00343/OUT	Land Behind Newton Cottages, Ashchurch Rd	31/03/2023	£13,673.59	POB418 : Healthcare Facility - S106 Contribution
14/00343/OUT	Land Behind Newton Cottages, Ashchurch Rd	31/03/2023	£19,697.20	POB419 : Sports Facilities Off Site - S106 Contribution
14/00343/OUT	Land Behind Newton Cottages, Ashchurch Rd	31/03/2023	£3,881.32	POB420 : Recycling Contribution
		Total	£2,150,370.63	

(c) The total amount of **money received before the reported year that has not been allocated** was **£8,390,972.79**

Non-Monetary Contributions Provided During The Reported Year

During the reported year the following non-monetary contributions were provided:

- The **total number of affordable housing units provided on-site** during the reported year was **280 dwellings**, 157 of which were on JCS Strategic Allocations; and
- The total number of **affordable housing units provided by S106 off site funding allocations** made within the reported year was **0 dwellings**.

Expenditure In The Reported Year

(f) The total amount of money from planning obligations **spent during the reported year** was **£712,926.66**. Of this amount **£366,415.02** was spent by a third party on behalf of Tewkesbury Borough Council.

(h) (i) The items of infrastructure that planning obligation money has been spent on during the reported year and the amount spent are as follows:

Infrastructure	Spent	Spend Description	Date	Source
POB52	£121.22	Burial facilities - Part payment for Section 106 Reclaim for Brockworth Cemetery Project Payment to Brockworth Parish Council	06/01/2023	04/01421/OUT
POB57	£6,626.29	Burial facilities - Part payment for Section 106 Reclaim for Brockworth Cemetery Project Payment to Brockworth Parish Council	06/01/2023	04/01421/OUT
POB58	£2,502.49	Burial facilities - Part payment for Section 106 Reclaim for Brockworth Cemetery Project Payment to Brockworth Parish Council	06/01/2023	04/01421/OUT
POB59	£14,641.70	Play contribution - Soft play Tewkesbury Leisure Centre	30/09/2022	04/01421/OUT
POB95	£8,793.03	Play contribution - Soft play Tewkesbury Leisure Centre	30/09/2022	12/01078/FUL
POB96	£12,919.02	Sports contribution - MUGA at Winchcombe Park Payment to Winchcombe Town Council	31/05/2022	12/01078/FUL
POB99	£14,628.93	Play contribution - Soft play Tewkesbury Leisure Centre	30/09/2022	12/01078/FUL
POB100	£12,999.80	Sports contribution - MUGA at Winchcombe Park Payment to Winchcombe Town Council	31/05/2022	12/01078/FUL
POB101	£2,069.88	Community contribution - Wheeled sports provision at Winchcombe Park Payment to Winchcombe Town Council	31/05/2022	12/01078/FUL
POB110	£12,020.84	Sports contribution - Payment for floodlights deposit, container locks and storage Payment to Brockworth Rugby Club (BSF)	10/06/2022 29/07/2022 09/11/2022	10/00091/OUT

Infrastructure	Spent	Spend Description	Date	Source
POB119	£5,809.62	Healthcare contribution - towards extension of Winchcombe Medical Centre dispensary counter modification - flooring, non-slip mats, blinds, door system and clinical bins Payment to NHS Glos	27/05/2022 07/07/2022 10/08/2022	13/00114/FUL
POB127	£7,760.73	Play contribution - Soft play Tewkesbury Leisure Centre	30/09/2022	14/01053/FUL
POB170	£49,032.57	Community contribution - Towards community facilities, footpaths, cycle paths, lighting, petanque court at Winchcome Park Payment to Winchcombe Town Council	31/05/2022	12/00464/OUT
POB186	£572.76	Play contribution - Payment to Alderton Parish Council for notice board	26/04/2022	14/00414/FUL
POB198	£68,173.17	Sports contribution - Stoke Orchard Upgrade/Ext MUGA	26/09/2022	14/00074/OUT
POB199	£17,736.77	Play contribution - Soft play Tewkesbury Leisure Centre from Stoke Orchard	30/09/2022	14/00074/OUT
POB214	£1,058.77	Community contribution - Village Hall/TRAC contribution	16/12/2022 & 01/03/2023	13/00978/FUL
POB219	£24,510.62	Community contribution - Longford Village Hall contribution	27/05/2022	05/00883/OUT
POB228	£7,708.83	Sports contribution - Maisemore Indoor Sports Facilities Contribution	18/10/2022	15/00131/OUT
POB232	£3,100.64	Sports contribution - Maisemore Changing Room Facilities Contribution	18/10/2022	15/00131/OUT
POB233	£13,616.53	Community contribution - Maisemore Village hall contribution	18/10/2022	15/00131/OUT
POB244	£10,854.00	Healthcare contribution - Bentham GP Surgery	06/03/2023	13/00794/FUL

Infrastructure	Spent	Spend Description	Date	Source
POB247	£9,298.42	Play contribution - Mitton Play Area	09/05/2022 to 09/02/2023	14/00211/OUT
POB249	£743.62	Play contribution - Soft play Tewkesbury Leisure Centre	30/09/2022	13/01205/FUL
POB252	£1,305.16	Play contribution - Soft play Tewkesbury Leisure Centre	30/09/2022	13/01205/FUL
POB254	£7,768.87	Play contribution - Soft play Tewkesbury Leisure Centre	30/09/2022	13/01205/FUL
POB261	£58,579.72	Sports contribution – Cheltenham Road Playing pitches Bishops Cleeve	21/11/2022	15/01177/FUL
POB276	£15,153.10	Community contribution - Brockworth Link and Community Library	03/01/2023 to 23/03/2023	12/01256/OUT
POB288	£40,801.30	Play contribution – Gotherington Play facilities	03/11/2022	16/00965/OUT
POB289	£46,783.54	Sports contribution – Gotherington Playing Pitches	31/10/2022	16/00965/OUT
POB297	£53,345.94	Sports contribution – Playing Pitches	08/11/2022	14/00838/FUL
POB298	£5,161.66	Community contribution - Community Centre Farm Lane Shurdington	22/03/2023	14/00838/FUL
POB302	£5,203.39	Play contribution – Offsite LEAP in Walton Cardiff	17/06/2022 to 30/09/2022	16/00177/FUL
POB306	£40,000.00	Sports contribution – Highnam Sports Facilities	12/09/2022 to 13/02/2023	14/00583/OUT
POB315	£565.00	Dog Bins & Signs - Highnam	06/09/2022	14/00583/OUT
POB323	£1,014.00	Sports contribution – Brockworth Changing facilities	31/10/2022	12/01256/OUT
POB333	£38,592.00	Sports contribution – Pamington Colts sports facilities	21/10/2022	14/00972/OUT

Infrastructure	Spent	Spend Description	Date	Source
POB342	£2,070.00	Community contribution - Extension or Improvement at GL3 Community Hub Churchdown	29/07/2022	16/00738/OUT
POB348	£200.00	Dog Bins & Signs – Twigworth	06/09/2022	15/01149/OUT
POB358	£2,356.00	Sports contribution – Gotherington Playing Pitches	30/04/2022	16/00336/OUT
POB385	£86,726.73	Sports contribution – Pitches & Changing Rooms Cheltenham North RFC Bishops Cleeve	09/01/2023	18/00249/OUT
Total	£712,926.66			

(e) The total amount of money from planning obligations **allocated towards infrastructure during the reported year** was **£2,150,370.63**. Of this amount **£0.00** was not spent during the reported year.

(g) The following items have had money allocated towards them during the reported year with unspent allocations:

Infrastructure	Allocated	Date Allocated	Unspent
POB371, 373 and 386 Commuted Sum for Long Term Maintenance of POS	£517,226.09	30/04/2022 to 07/09/2022	£517,226.09
POB365, 366, 368, 380, 390, 407, 408, 416 and 417 Dog Waste Bins and Signage	£37,978.28	17/05/2022 to 31/03/2023	£37,978.28
POB367, 369, 376, 379, 383, 389, 391, 400, 406, 412 and 420 Refuse and Recycling	£128,732.48	17/05/2022 to 31/03/2023	£128,732.48

Infrastructure	Allocated	Date Allocated	Unspent
POB377, 378, 384, 388, 394, 395 and 398 Monitoring	£22,115.03	05/07/2022 to 18/11/2022	£7,997.87
POB370, 387, 392, 393, 403, 404, 405, 411 and 419 Sports	£696,457.54	17/05/2022 to 31/03/2023	£696,457.54
POB375 and 415 Play Facilities	£50,483.11	05/07/2022 and 03/03/2023	£50,483.11
POB374 and 401 Affordable Housing	£152,311.27	05/07/2022 and 09/12/2022	£152,311.27
POB409 and 418 NHS Contribution	£14,097.59	22/11/2022 and 31/03/2023	£14,097.59
POB381, 397, 399 and 414 Environmental	£184,495.50	12/08/2022 to 24/02/2023	£184,495.50
Community including Village Halls	£291,442.59	24/11/2022 to 22/02/2023	£291,442.59
Total	£2,095,339.48	Total	£2,081,222.32

(h) (ii) No planning obligation money was spent on repaying money borrowed, including any interest, **during** the reported year.

(h) (iii) The amount of planning obligation money spent in respect of administration of planning obligations and monitoring in relation to the delivery of planning obligations during the reported year was £18,873.05.

(Staff Costs of £14,610.58 plus £4,262.47 software licence for Exacom made up of: S106 Module of £3,653.54 and 50% of Project Module of £608.93).

CLOSING POSITION

Money Retained At The End Of The Reported Year

(i) The total amount of money retained at the end of the reported year is **£10,226,958.65**. Of this **£535,307.94** has been retained for long term maintenance.

DRAFT

SECTION 278 MATTERS

Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations (2019 Amendment) Regulation 121A Schedule 2 Section 4

In respect to Highways Agreements, under Section 278 of the Highways Act 1980, it should be noted that:

Highway provisions will not be included in this report as, in this two-tier authority area, Gloucestershire County Council will be publishing its own Infrastructure Funding Statement. The County Council will include details of planning obligations it has secured by way of S106, as well as S278 in its areas of competence. The County Council's Infrastructure Funding Statements can be found by following this link: [Infrastructure Funding Statement \(IFS\) - Gloucestershire County Council](#)

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

3. INFRASTRUCTURE LIST



121A.— Annual infrastructure funding statements (1) Subject to paragraph (2), no later than 31st December in each calendar year a contribution receiving authority must publish a document ("the annual infrastructure funding statement") which comprises the following— (a) a statement of the infrastructure projects or types of infrastructure which the charging authority intends will be, or may be, wholly or partly funded by CIL (other than CIL to which regulation 59E or 59F applies) ("the infrastructure list");

Background

The Joint Core Strategy (JCS) partners of Gloucester City Council, Cheltenham Borough Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council are each both Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging and Collecting Authorities in their own right.

Regulation 121A of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended) requires CIL Charging Authorities to produce an annual "Infrastructure Funding Statement". This must include a list of schemes or types of infrastructure (the "Infrastructure List") that the Council intends may be wholly or partly funded from CIL.

The Allocation of CIL

All CIL income must be allocated as follows:

Administration Fund: Up to 5% of CIL can be applied towards its implementation and ongoing administration of the Charging/Collection Authority(ies).

Neighbourhood Fund: 15% (subject to a cap based on number of existing dwellings in the Parish) rising to 25% in areas that have a 'made' Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP also called neighbourhood Plans) in place, of each CIL charge payment received, is either:

- Passed to the Parish Council in whose boundary the development that made the payment is located;
- Held by the Charging Authority on behalf of a Designated Neighbourhood Forum, as once they have a made NDP they are entitled to direct the spending of their 25%, or
- 15% is held by the Charging Authority to be spent in the same way as all other Neighbourhood CIL.

Infrastructure Fund: The remaining 70 to 80% must be spent on infrastructure that supports the growth of the CIL Charging Authority's area.

The 'Infrastructure List' relates solely to schemes or infrastructure types that the Charging Authority intends may be wholly or partly funded from the 'Infrastructure' Fund.

The Partnership Approach

The Joint Core Strategy (JCS) partners of Gloucester City Council, Cheltenham Borough Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council has led to the development of a shared Infrastructure list.

Previous Infrastructure Lists

The Infrastructure List is not a comprehensive audit of all infrastructure requirements associated with the facilitation and mitigation of the impacts of development during the plan period. The Infrastructure Delivery Plans (IDP) of Development Plans are prepared for this purpose and seek to identify not only infrastructure needs but also potential sources of funding and delivery including funding from: Central Government; Local Government; and Developer Contributions and Provision by way of agreements permitted under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and Section 278 of the Highways Act 1980, for example.

The removal of the Regulation 123 'pooling restriction', by the 2019 CIL Amendment Regulation, was intended to make it easier to deliver major infrastructure projects. It allows local authorities to combine CIL and Section 106 revenues towards the same infrastructure project or item.

As set out in CIL Regulation 122, planning obligations such as a section 106 agreements will continue to be sought alongside the CIL to secure all infrastructure which is "necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms, "is directly related to the development and is "fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development".

The IDP, prepared to support the JCS, provided an evidenced source of projects for the first JCS Partner's Infrastructure List, published in December 2020.

The IDP identified a significant potential shortfall in funding, and CIL income forecasts predicted only a small amount of the shortfall could be raised within the plan period. As we have prepared our IFS statements our Infrastructure List has been updated:

Year 1: The Infrastructure identified as 'critical' was selected to form the first list;

Year 2: Reviewed progress of each of the projects and identified a number that were either completed or had secured sufficient funding from other sources to no longer envisage needing CIL funding;

Year 3: Removed schemes identified as no longer requiring CIL funding and provided updates to scheme names and cost estimates for the remaining schemes.

Year 4: 2023 Infrastructure List as summarised below; and

Future Years: Will be informed by a full review of the IDP.

The 2023 Infrastructure List

Further to the publication of the 2022 IFS report which highlighted that the agreed Infrastructure list was not representative of current priorities, work has taken place with our JCS/SLP partners and Gloucestershire County Council to prepare an interim Infrastructure List. This recognises that the IDP prepared to support the JCS was a point in time, since then the councils have declared a climate emergency, there have been key changes in national policy, and it is important that CIL investment is targeted to infrastructure priorities that are relevant, deliverable and meet the demands of the current position of the three partners, individually and jointly.

The 'Infrastructure List'

The inclusion of a project on the Infrastructure List does not represent a commitment that the Partners will necessarily spend CIL monies on that item and for clarity, there is no priority implied by the order in which the projects appear in the list itself.

The JCS Partners will continue to review this list and provide updates on at least an annual basis, alongside the preparation of their Infrastructure Funding Statement(s).

Projects Requesting CIL Funding

Local

1. Cheltenham Petersfield Community & Sports Hub (£300k to £617k)
2. Cheltenham Spa Railway Station Enhancements (Honeybourne Line cycle path extension) (£1.3m) – S106/County Council Funding Potential
3. Cheltenham Parks and Green Space Landscape and Recreation: maintenance & investment (£600k) – Section 106 Commuted Sums for long term maintenance and Borough Council funding Potential.
4. Cheltenham central safe cycle hub pilot project (£25k) – Neighbourhood Funding Potential
5. Cheltenham Town Centre Interchange study (£70k) – S106/County Council Funding Potential
6. Cheltenham cycle spine phase 1 Construction Work (£1.3m) - – S106/County Council Funding Potential
7. Cheltenham Cycle Spine Phase 2 (Station to Pittville Park) Design Work (£600k) – S106/County Council Funding Potential
8. Tewkesbury Town Centre and Riverside Public Realm Enhancements (£1.5m) – S106 Funding Potential
9. Tewkesbury Town Centre children's play facilities (£75k) (part of Tewkesbury Borough enhanced play facilities project) - S106/Neighbourhood Funding Potential
10. Hampton Place, Churchdown footpath (£20k) (part of Tewkesbury Borough Active Travel network improvements) - S106/Neighbourhood/County Council Funding Potential
11. Melrose Walk, Mitton footpath (£10k) (part of Tewkesbury Borough Active Travel network improvements) - S106/Neighbourhood/County Council Funding Potential
12. Wheatpieces Woodland Walk footpath (£10k) (part of Tewkesbury Borough Active Travel network improvements) - S106/Neighbourhood/County Council Funding Potential

13. Gloucester to Haresfield Cycle Spine Design Work (£850k) – S106 / County Council / Challenge Funding Potential
14. Gloucester Strategic Transport Interchange connectivity (£2m - £5m) – S106/County Council/Challenge Funding Potential

Shared

15. Recycling services depot (£28.5m split 60/40 between CBC and TBC respectively) – Section 106 Potential
16. Mass Rapid Transit, next business case stage (£2m divided by 3) – S106/County Council/Challenge Funding Potential

The Pipeline

Projects Requiring More Work to Identify Costs:

Local

17. Cheltenham High Street public realm improvements – Section 106 / Neighbourhood / County Council / Challenge Funding Potential
18. Tewkesbury Borough Crematoria / Cemeteries – Section 106 Potential
19. Tewkesbury Borough Bishops Cleeve Leisure Centre - Section 106 /Neighbourhood Funding Potential
20. Tewkesbury Ashchurch Rail Station/Infrastructure Enhancements - Section 106 / Challenge Funding Potential
21. Tewkesbury Garden Town enabling infrastructure - Section 106 / County Council / Challenge Funding Potential
22. Tewkesbury Town Centre enhanced cultural offer – Section 106 Potential
23. Tewkesbury Traffic management in historic core – Section 106 and County Council Potential
24. Tewkesbury Town Centre Business incubator units – Section 106 Potential
25. Tewkesbury Borough EV induction charging infrastructure – Section 106 / Challenge Funding Potential
26. Tewkesbury Borough Active Travel network improvements – Section 106 / Neighbourhood / County Council / Challenge Funding Potential
27. Tewkesbury Borough Community Places creation and improvement - Section 106 /Neighbourhood Funding Potential
28. Tewkesbury Borough Youth Facilities project creation and improvement - Section 106 /Neighbourhood Funding Potential
29. Tewkesbury Borough enhanced play facilities project - Section 106 /Neighbourhood Funding Potential

30. Tewkesbury Borough enhanced sports facilities project - Section 106 /Neighbourhood Funding Potential
31. Gloucester City GL1 Leisure Centre - Section 106 Potential/Neighbourhood Funding Potential
32. Gloucester City Oxstalls Sports Park - Section 106 Potential/Neighbourhood Funding Potential
33. Gloucester City Blackbridge Community and Sports Hub - Section 106 Potential
34. Gloucester Nature Park - Section 106 Potential/Neighbourhood Funding Potential
35. Gloucester Crematoria / Cemeteries - Section 106 Potential
36. Gloucester Strategic Green Infrastructure - Section 106 Potential/Neighbourhood Funding Potential

Shared

37. NHS GP Surgeries - Section 106 Potential
38. Expressbus Corridors – Section 106/County Council/Challenge Funding Potential
39. Brockworth to Cheltenham cycle link (via Shurdington) – Section 106/County Council/Challenge Funding Potential
40. Brockworth to Gloucester cycle link – Section 106/County Council/Challenge Funding Potential
41. Gloucester to Hartpury College cycle link – Section 106/County Council/Challenge Funding Potential

Projects not to be funded from CIL

42. M5 J10 Scheme
43. M5 J9 & A46 Improvement Scheme
44. All Education requirements

Format:

The partner councils at the time of drafting this IFS are progressing proposals to set up a CIL Joint Committee. It should be noted that the Joint Committee proposal relates **only** to the strategic element of CIL, the Infrastructure Fund, responsibility for the neighbourhood element of CIL sits wholly with the individual councils. The Joint Committee would be responsible for the allocation of CIL monies using the interim Infrastructure List as a starting point for consideration.

For information, the Infrastructure List has been compared to the funding available in the three council's Infrastructure Funds, both as is reported in this Infrastructure Funding Statement (December 2023) and in the first 6 months of this financial year 2023/24.

Funding Available

CIL Authority	Regulation 59i Strategic 'Infrastructure Fund'	
	Date	Amount
Cheltenham Borough Council	31/03/2023	£1,199,537.68
	25/10/2023	£2,564,105.08
Tewkesbury Borough Council	31/03/2023	£7,053,286.54
	25/10/2023	£8,058,663.30
Gloucester City Council	31/03/2023	£825,367.24
	25/10/2023	£1,274,784.90
	31/03/2023	£9,078,191.46
	25/10/2023	£11,897,553.28

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Costed Requests for Funding

CIL Authority	Projects seeking funding		
	List	Project	Amount
Cheltenham Borough Council	Local	1.	£617,000.00
	Local	2	£1,310,000.00
	Local	3.	£600,000.00
	Local	4.	£25,000.00
	Local	5.	£70,000.00
	Local	6.	£1,300,000.00
	Local	7.	£600,000.00
CBC Local Sub-total			£4,522,000.00
	Shared	15.	£17,100,000.00
	Shared	16.	£666,666.67
CBC Shared Sub-total			£17,766,666.67
CBC Joint Sub-total			£22,288,666.67
Tewkesbury Borough Council	Local	8.	£1,500,000.00
	Local	9.	£75,000.00
	Local	10.	£20,000.00
	Local	11.	£10,000.00
	Local	12.	£10,000.00
TBC Local Sub-total			£1,615,000.00

	Shared	15.	£11,400,000.00
	Shared	16.	£666,666.67
TBC Shared Sub-total			£12,066,666.67
TBC Joint Sub-total			£13,681,666.67
Gloucester City Council	Local	13.	£850,000.00
	Local	14.	£5,000,000.00
GCC Local Sub-total			£5,850,000.00
	Shared	16.	£666,666.67
GCC Shared Sub-total			£666,666.67
GCC Joint Sub-total			£6,516,666.67
All Councils Local Total			£11,987,000.00
All Councils Shared Total			£32,115,000.00
All Councils Joint Total			£44,102,000.00

Tewkesbury Borough Council's 'Annual CIL Rate Summary Statement'

Approved for Publication December 2023

Introduction

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulations 2010 (as amended) require CIL Charging Authorities to:

"Each calendar year, no earlier than 2nd December and no later than 31st December ... publish a statement ("Annual CIL Rate Summary") in relation to the next calendar year".

Regulation 121C(1)

This 'Annual CIL Rate Summary' Statement sets out how 'indexation' will affect CIL charges within Tewkesbury Borough from 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024.

Indexation

Indexation allows the rates we charge to be adjusted to take account of inflation.

Whilst the most common index is the Retail Prices Index (RPI), published by the Office for National Statistics, the CIL Regulations require us to use an index published by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).

The CIL Regulations require RICS to publish the CIL Index for 1st November each year, starting in 2019 and updated annually thereafter and for all Charging Authorities to apply this index.

Calculating CIL

CIL is calculated by multiplying the net increase in gross internal area (GIA)¹ by the relevant CIL rate (£/m²). The CIL rates must be index linked from the year that CIL was introduced to the year that a planning permission is granted.

Background

Prior to changes in the CIL Regulations in 2019 we were required to use the national 'All-In Tender Price Index', published by RICS' Build Cost Information Service (BCIS). Changes to the CIL Regulations that came into force on the 1st September 2019 now require us, from the Calendar year 2020, to use a new RICS 'CIL Index'.

Along with the other JCS Authorities Tewkesbury Borough Council began charging CIL on planning permissions granted after the 1st January 2019. As required at the time the Authorities applied the 'All-In Tender Price Index' published on the 1st November 2018 for the first calendar year of charging.

The index is now applied annually on the 1st January each year based on the RICS 'CIL Index' published on the 1st November in the previous year.

New Charges

From the 1st January 2024 to the 31st December 2024 rates have been adjusted in line with the RICS CIL Index published for the 1st November 2023.

The table below shows the original charges set for 2019 along with this years (2023) charges and the charges applying the index published on the 1st November 2023 as they will apply in the calendar year of 2024:

- The original charges in Year 1 (2019) when we began charging and the index was 322;
- the increased charges in Year 2 (2020) as the index rose by 3.73% to 334;
- the reduced charges in Year 3 (2021) as the index fell by 0.3% to 333;
- the reduced charges in Year 4 (2022) as the index fell by 0.3% to 332;
- the increased charges in Year 5 (2023) as the index rose by 6.9% to 355; and
- the increased charges in Year 6 (2024) as the index rose by 7.3% to 381.

¹ The definition of gross internal area is not specified in the regulations; however, the generally accepted method of calculation is the RICS Code of Measuring Practice (6th edition, 2015)

Charging Schedule

Development Category	All-in TPI 01/11/18	Year 1 (2019)	CIL Index 01/11/22	Year 5 (2023)	CIL Index 01/11/23	Year 6 (2024)
10 dwellings and under ²	322	£104 per m ²	355	£114.66 per m ²	381	£123.06 per m ²
Between 11 and 449 dwellings	322	£200 per m ²	355	£220.50 per m ²	381	£236.65 per m ²
450 dwellings and over	322	£35 per m ²	355	£38.59 per m ²	381	£41.41 per m ²
JCS Strategic Allocations A5 and B1	322	£35 per m ²	355	£38.59 per m ²	381	£41.41 per m ²

² For clarity this includes individual dwellings, irrespective of size (Regulation 42(2)), and extensions and annexes greater than 100 m² (Regulation 42(1)).

Publication

Regulation 121C(3) requires us to “publish each annual CIL rate summary” on our “website”. This statement will therefore be published on-line, alongside Tewkesbury Borough Council’s Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) no later than the 31st December 2023.

Contingency

If the RICS CIL Index is discontinued, we will revert to using the BCIS Index and, in the event that both are discontinued, we will use the Retail Price Index.

Further information and all CIL forms are available on the Planning Portal website at: www.planningportal.gov.uk/planning/applications/howtoapply/whattosubmit/cil

If you have any questions regarding CIL please contact us at:
Tewkesbury – cil@tewkesbury.gov.uk

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Council
Date of Meeting:	12 December 2023
Subject:	Standards Committee Future Membership
Report of:	Monitoring Officer
Head of Service/Director:	Monitoring Officer
Lead Member:	Lead Member for Corporate Governance
Number of Appendices:	None

Executive Summary:

The Standards Committee has operated for many years with two independent persons advising the Monitoring Officer and the Standards Committee, and just one Parish Council Member.

The report proposes to increase the number of independent persons and Parish Council Members to three to facilitate them having more involvement in the complaints process at an earlier stage with panels similar to those used for licensing hearings.

This was supported by the Standards Committee on 16th October 2023 and a number of members of Parish Councils have expressed an interest in joining the Standards Committee as non- voting members.

Recommendation:

To AGREE to:

- 1. Increase the number of independent persons assisting the Monitoring Officer and Standards Committee from two to three**
- 2. Increase the number of Parish Council Members on the Standards Committee as non –voting members from one to three.**

Financial Implications:

The independent persons are paid a small allowance so a further allowance will be paid to the additional independent person.

Legal Implications:

Tewkesbury Borough has a large number of Parish Councils. The Borough Council is responsible for looking at Code of Conduct complaints from Parish Councils and the process would benefit from additional Parish Council input based on the earlier experience of the Monitoring Officer.

Environmental and Sustainability Implications:

The panel meetings can be on Teams to avoid additional travel.

Resource Implications (including impact on equalities):

The Monitoring Officer can resource the additional appointments and the panel meetings.

Safeguarding Implications:

None.

Impact on the Customer:

The process will be more transparent and include a wider set of views.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Borough Council is required to deal with its own Code of Conduct issues and those arising in its 20+ Parish Councils in the borough. Complaints from Parish Councils is a large body of work and the costs fall on the Borough Council.

2.0 ADDITIONAL INDEPENDENT PERSONS AND PARISH COUNCILLORS HAVING A ROLE IN THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

2.1 To facilitate the greater involvement of Members in the early stages of the Standards complaints process, it is proposed to increase the number of independent persons from two to three and the number of Parish Councillors from one to three. This will increase the variety of persons involved in the process which should provide those involved with greater confidence in its objectivity.

3.0 CONSULTATION

3.1 The change is supported by the present Standards Committee who considered a report in relation to item at its meeting in October. Over 15 Parish Councillors have expressed an interest in joining the Committee. There will be an interview process involving the Monitoring Officer and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee to appoint the additional independent person and the three Parish Councillors.

4.0 ASSOCIATED RISKS

4.1 There is a risk that those brought into the process might seek to act politically. This has not been the experience of your Monitoring Officer.

5.0 MONITORING

5.1 The Standards Committee will report to Council on its work annually.

6.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES/COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

6.1 None

Background Papers: Standards Committee report from 16 October 2023

Contact Officer: Monitoring Officer
01684 272211 tom.clark@teWKesbury.gov.uk

Appendices: None