

Development Services

Service Business Plan 2015-16

1. Service purpose and objectives

Economic and Community Development service i.e. community development, health development, sports development, economic development and tourism (including Winchcombe and Tewkesbury Tourist Information centres).

The team aims to ensure the borough is a place where people have access to work, where people want to visit and invest, encourages people to be healthy and where we work with communities to help them achieve their aims and ambitions. The service recognises the value of working with strategic partners to help deliver its objectives. Key objectives include;

- To support and nurture emerging growth sectors and encourage inward investment
- To support and sustain a vibrant rural economy
- To increase the potential of, and promote, the retail centres in the borough
- To ensure an appropriate supply of employment land and premises and local infrastructure
- To increase the volume and value of tourism in the borough
- To raise the skills levels of local people
- To work jointly with strategic partners to ensure a joined up approach to helping our communities and residents
- To provide support for the voluntary and community sector, including funding advice and support and to enable capacity building within communities
- To improve the health and wellbeing of our communities to increase their quality of life
- To promote, support, enable and deliver opportunities for our communities to participate in and appreciate leisure and culture, sport, art, play, open space, health and events.
- Promote healthier lifestyles and tackle causes of poor health.
- Ensure good access to a range of leisure and cultural activities.
- Improve the environment through planning, to make it easier to be healthy and active.

Development Management

The Development Management service enables development that accords with development plan policy and to ensure that decisions on planning and related applications provide for good quality development which preserves and enhances the historic and natural environment in accordance with relevant legislation and policies. Other key objectives include;

To provide an excellent and transparent service to all customers and stakeholders.

To ensure that there is capacity to respond to future housing and employment needs for the borough and ensure that new and existing communities comprise desirable places to live and work.

Planning Policy

The Planning Policy service guides development in a way that protects the natural environment, enhances the built environment and contributes to more sustainable communities and to prepare Tewkesbury's Development Plan – putting in place planning policies that guide sustainable development; including the delivery of the Joint Core Strategy with Cheltenham Borough and Gloucester City Councils and the delivery of the Tewkesbury Borough Plan. Other key objectives include;

To produce specific detailed guidance for the development of key sites and locations experiencing significant change.

To produce Supplementary Planning Documents on specific planning issues which will help the borough deliver national and local planning policies.

To monitor and report on development, demographic, social, economic and environmental trends to inform future policies and monitor the effectiveness of existing planning policies.

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To ensure that the interests of the borough are properly represented in the strategic planning process at the national level and more locally across Gloucestershire and neighbouring counties.

2. Progress against actions, projects, tasks or targets 2014-15

Non Council Plan actions only, see Performance Tracker for progress against 2014-15 Council Plan actions.

Action	Progress made	Date to be achieved	Complete ✓ or ✗
Economic and Community Development			
Delivery of Economic Development & Tourism Strategy 2012-2015	The ED&T strategy needs to be refreshed to align it with other economic initiatives and strategies that are taking place countywide eg LEP, SEP. In the absence of a refreshed strategy the team continue to deliver the economic related priorities within the council plan.	March 2015	✓
Development Management			
Brought forward from 2013-14: Review of Section 106 monitoring processes	The review has been completed with new systems now in place.	March 2015	✓
Brought forward from 2013-14: Explore and implement a range of measures to recover costs of the planning service.	Various measures explored leading to changes to Pre-application charges.	March 2015	✓
Draft revised Scheme of Delegation	Revised scheme of delegation adopted by Council on 14 April 2015 with implementation effective from May 2015.	March 2015	✓
Draft Pre-application member engagement policy	Action superseded by the Protocol for Councillors and Officers Involved in the Planning Process.	March 2015	

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Action	Progress made	Date to be achieved	Complete ✓ or ✗
Draft Local Development Orders for Bishops Cleeve/Hucclecote for consultation	Drafting of Orders delayed due to capacity issues. Expected to be completed by Autumn 2015.	March 2015	✗
Planning Policy			
Assessment of Land Availability (ALA)	The 2014 ALA has been completed and published. There were 33 new sites submitted. The ALA applied a policy neutral approach, and, as such 137 sites were assessed as being suitable, available and achievable.	March 2015	✓

3. Work programme 2015-16

Non Council Plan actions only.

Action	What difference will it make?	Date to be achieved
Economic Development & Tourism		
To develop a strategy for economic growth and tourism.	To encourage investment, vibrant economy, growth and value and volume of tourism	January 2016
To review the current business grant scheme (including its potential link to business rate relief).	To maximise support to businesses.	January 2016
Deliver business resilience and marketing support to local businesses affected by flooding.	To enable businesses to be more resilient and grow.	March 2016
Work with Cotswold Tourism to create a new partnership body.	To provide a stronger body that will support businesses and increase visitor numbers.	March 2016
Implement Tewkesbury Heritage and Visitor Centre review outcomes.	Increased footfall	March 2016
Community Development		
Recruit for Community Funding Post.	To assist community groups in applying for funding.	June 2015
Work with MAIDeN to develop neighbourhood profiling for our communities.	Greater understanding of communities, their needs and their strengths.	Dec 2015
Work with the three Clinical Commissioning Groups within the borough to develop their locality plans.	Enabling healthier communities.	July 2015

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Work with Tewkesbury Cluster Clinical Commissioning Group to launch social prescribing.	To enable residents to access non-medical forms of recovery.	April 2015
To work with the Financial Inclusion Partnership to provide a single referral system and provide access to services.	Fairer outcomes for our residents.	March 2016
Work with partners to deliver outcomes from the successful Capacity Fund bid, including a green space strategy and analysis of community infrastructure needs for strategic sites.	To create communities that are desirable places to live.	December 2015
To work with Active Gloucestershire on initiatives to encourage healthy lifestyles, including enabling health walks and delivery of the new Tewkesbury Park Run.	Encourage healthy, active lifestyles.	March 2016
Development Management		
Carry out a systems review of the Development Management service.	To ensure that systems and ways of working are efficient and effective, and improves outcomes for customers.	March 2016
Draft Local Development Orders for Bishops Cleeve/Hucclecote for consultation. (b/fwd 14/15)	This would reduce the number of applications received which do not attract a fee, improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the service. Parish Council time would also be freed up whilst householders would no longer need to apply for planning permission.	December 2015
Draft Pre-application member engagement policy.v (b/fwd 14/15)	Early Member engagement can allow for local issues to be identified and considered before an application is submitted. This can ensure better outcomes from the planning process.	December 2015
Digitising historic planning record plotting sheets.	This will make it easier for officer to respond to searches of the Local Land Charge Register, making the service more efficient, and make records easier to access for personal search companies.	September 2015
Produce a planning training programme for Councillors	This will assist in Member development, improving Members' knowledge of different aspects of planning.	September 2015
Produce a customer engagement programme	This will improve links with customers such as planning agents and architects, and ensure that the service understands their needs and meet those needs as far as possible.	September 2015

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Planning Policy		
Additional Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 2 work for Tewkesbury Borough site allocations.	Consultants will be commissioned during Summer/Autumn 2015 to provide the more detailed SFRA Level 2 work in relation to the proposed Tewkesbury Borough Plan site allocations. The findings will be presented to Members prior to the publication of the report.	October 2015
Annual Monitoring Report.	Monitoring of the development plan commences in April each year with assessments of the delivery of new housing and employment sites. This is reported in June and is a key tool in determining progress made in respect of the development plan and the Council's performance against land supply issues.	June 2015
Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Site Selection.	Tewkesbury Borough Council has appointed DLP Planning Ltd to carry out a 'Gypsy & Traveller Site Search Assessment'. The draft report is due in June 2015 and a Member seminar is planned for 18 th June.	June 2015

4. Factors that may affect future service delivery

Factor
Operation of the Tourist Information Service, including Winchcombe TIC and Tewkesbury Heritage & Visitor Centre. Options for delivery of the service will be considered, working, where practicable, with Winchcombe and Tewkesbury Town Councils. This will impact on staff and wider tourism service delivery
Continued collaboration with Cheltenham and Gloucester (Planning Policy)
Potential major planning applications and appeals
Continued housing land supply shortfall
Review of the Development Control Service
Potential implementation of Community Infrastructure Levy
Changes to planning guidance/legislation
Resources.