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# Tewkesbury Borough Council Plan

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Year 3: 2022

2020-24





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Councillor Rob Bird, Leader of the Council



Councillor Jim Mason, Deputy Leader of the Council

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“Tewkesbury  
Borough, a place  
where a **good  
quality of life** is  
open to all”

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## Foreword

**We are pleased to introduce the annual refresh of our Council Plan 2020 to 2024 (Year Three). This document is a statement of intent to drive forward our vision:**

“Tewkesbury Borough, a place where a good quality of life is open to all.”

To deliver this vision and provide focus, we have established six priorities:

- Finances and resources
- Economic growth
- Housing and communities
- Customer first
- Garden communities
- Sustainable environment

In this year's Council Plan, as we continue to recover from the pandemic, we have incorporated the remaining actions from our Covid-19 Corporate Recovery Plan so that our focus for 2022/23 falls under one key strategic document. We have marked these actions with an (r) throughout the plan. It remains important for us to be mindful of the potential for new variants to emerge and we have learned a significant amount from our response over the past two years. Importantly, as an agile and alert organisation, we are well-equipped to revert to response mode if needed.

Our refreshed Council Plan gives us a focus on improvement for the future, and the flexibility to adapt as things change. Throughout 2022/23 we will continue to support our borough's emergence from the pandemic, supporting businesses and residents to thrive. With that in mind, we will use our ambition, creativity, and drive to deliver excellent, value-for-money services for our communities.

Our investment in our award-winning Business Transformation Team reflects our commitment to transforming our customers' experience. This unique team is challenging the way we deliver our services, ensuring they are designed around our customers' needs. From introducing paperless billing to transforming our bulky waste service, we are committed to delivering our services in more efficient and effective ways.

As one of the fastest-growing districts in the country, and with our commitment to delivering our garden communities, we know the future for Tewkesbury Borough is solid infrastructure, innovative skills, timely housing delivery and cohesive communities. The adoption of our Local Plan is expected shortly, and alongside our Joint Strategic Plan (JSP), this key document will help to shape our growth in a planned and sustainable way.

We are incredibly lucky for our borough to be home to an abundance of beautiful, natural assets and our commitment to prioritise a sustainable environment will help us enhance and protect our landscape and support our climate emergency declaration.

We remain committed to our ethos 'Better for Customers, Better for Business'- and more than anything else we will look to ensure that everything we do is shaped around the needs of our customers and communities. This includes supporting recent initiatives announced by Government such as the administration of the Council Tax Scheme and working closely with our partners to support the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

You will see that we made some significant achievements in our second year (2021-2022) under each of our priority themes, and these can be found on pages 14-16





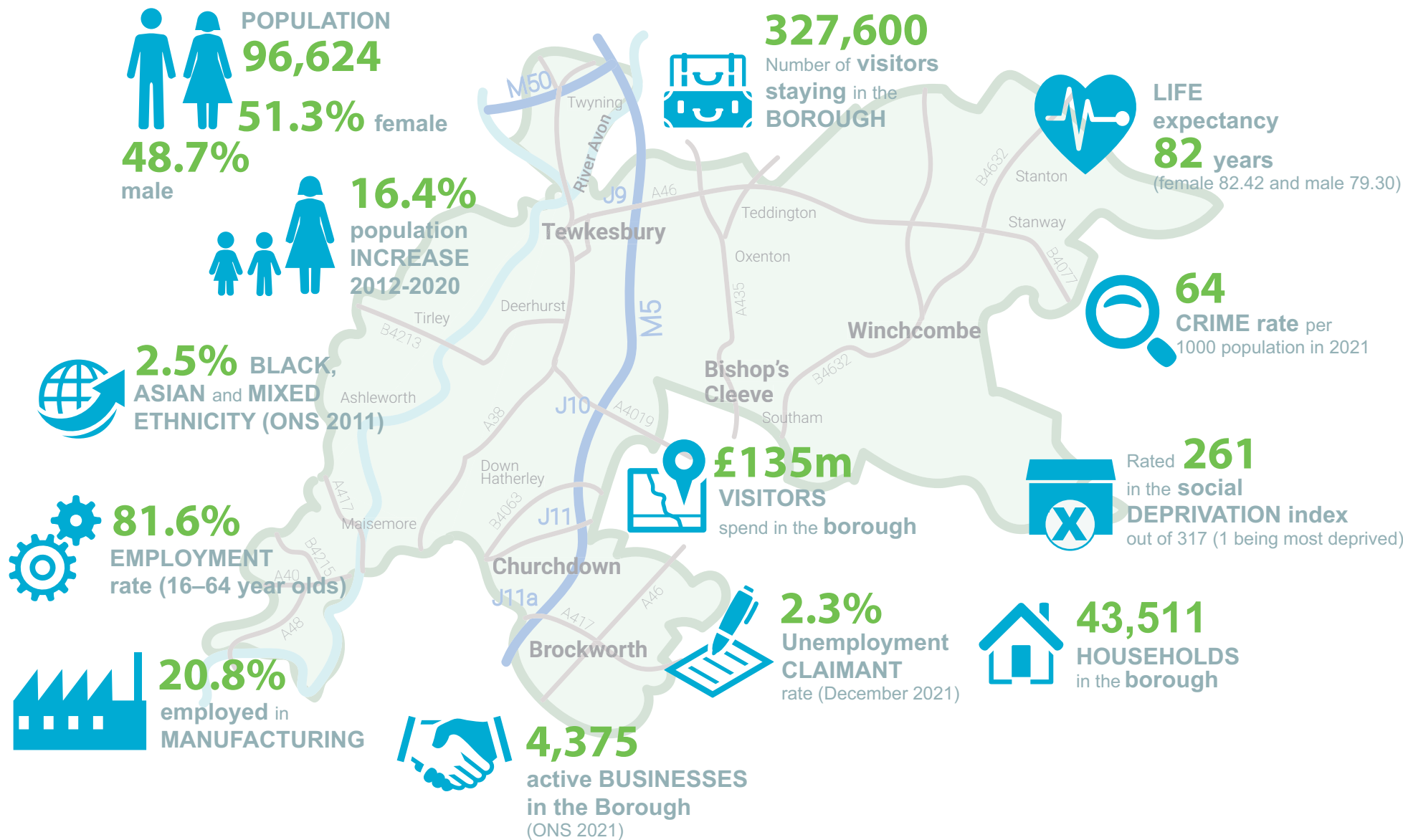
## Tewkesbury Borough

**Our borough is predominantly rural and located in the north of the county extending southwards beyond Gloucester and Cheltenham. The eastern part of the borough lies within the Cotswold AONB. Our population is roughly 96,624 made up of 43,511 households spread across 160 square miles. It has an excellent location at the heart of the M5 corridor.**

Although apparently rural in character, our borough includes a wide range of economic activity - from large multinationals to micro businesses. We are an established centre for high quality manufacturing and home to some world class high tech aero engineering firms. The diverse and contrasting range of settlements provides a high quality environment in which to live. Combined with its excellent strategic location, it makes an ideal area for economic and business growth.



# Our Borough



## More about us...



**699**

FOOD BUSINESSES  
awarded a hygiene rating



Over **300**  
COMMUNITY groups  
were supported with  
FUNDING advice



Responded to  
**572** FREEDOM OF  
INFORMATION requests



Employ  
**224**  
STAFF



**1571**

PLANNING  
APPLICATIONS  
considered



Supported the  
delivery of  
**150+** affordable  
NEW HOMES



Awarded **£423,600**  
to RESIDENTS through the  
TEST AND TRACE support  
scheme



Carried out over  
**4 million**  
BIN COLLECTIONS



Dealt with over  
**184k**  
CALLS  
to key services



**5,477** COVID 19  
BUSINESS GRANTS  
AWARDED in excess of  
**£31.6m**



**198,374**  
PAGE VIEWS by 104,062  
visitors through our WEBSITE



**500+**  
Volunteer LITTER  
PICKERS



Considered  
**95** FORMAL  
COMPLAINTS



**£134,488**  
AWARDED in  
COMMUNITY  
grants



**19,100+**  
tonnes of WASTE was  
RECYCLED or  
COMPOSTED



Over **£31,000**  
Covid Contain Outbreak  
Management funding has  
helped SUPPORT 27 households



**4,300**  
BULKY WASTE  
collections



**2,198**  
HOUSING  
benefit claims



**1,800**  
HOUSING  
register applicants



Supported **10** community  
led BIO-DIVERSITY projects



Carried out  
**1454**  
PLAYGROUND  
INSPECTIONS



**19,000+**  
GARDEN  
WASTE customers



Responded to  
**1502**  
ENVIRO-CRIMES



We have  
**38**  
COUNCILLORS



PREVENTED **137**  
homelessness cases



Dealt with  
**6150** applications  
for CHANGE of CIRCUMSTANCES  
for benefits customers






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“Everything we do is aimed at **delivering our vision** but the way we deliver services is equally important to us”

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## Our vision and values 2020-2024

### Our vision is to make:

“Tewkesbury Borough, a place where a good quality of life is open to all.”

### Our values

Everything we do is aimed at delivering our vision but the way we deliver services is equally important to us. We are an ambitious council punching above its weight, and we have therefore adopted a set of values which we apply across all of our activities. We are a council which:

#### ✓ Puts customers first

We will put the needs of our customers at the heart of what we do and listen to what they say, treating people fairly and without bias.

#### ✓ Is positive about working with others

We recognise we cannot achieve our vision by working alone. We will continue to develop productive working relationships with other organisations and our communities, including the voluntary sector, town and parish councils and neighbourhood groups to achieve common goals.

#### ✓ Values our employees

We will support, praise and invest in our workforce to develop our organisation.

Supporting our values we also have an ethos that whatever we do will be ‘better for customers, better for business’.





# Our priorities and objectives 2020-24

## Finance and resources

- To ensure the council remains financially secure in the long term
- Maintain a low council tax
- Maintain our assets to maximise financial returns
- Deliver the council's commercial strategy

## Economic growth

- Deliver our strategic and economic development plans
- Deliver employment land and infrastructure to facilitate economic growth
- Deliver borough regeneration schemes
- Promote the borough as an attractive place to live and visit

## Housing and communities

- Deliver the housing needs of our communities
- Ensure development plans provide for the five year land supply requirement
- Support infrastructure and facilities delivery to enable sustainable communities

## Customer first

- Maintain our culture of continuous service improvement
- Develop online services to achieve 'digital by preference, access for all'

## Garden communities

- Delivery of Tewkesbury Garden Town
- Delivery of Golden Valley Garden Community village.

## Sustainable environment

- Deliver the carbon reduction action plan
- Promote a healthy and flourishing environment in the borough
- Promote responsible recycling across the borough
- Preserve and enhance the natural assets and built heritage of our borough







“The council has to manage with less money whilst demands on our services increase”

## Finance and resources

The local government financial climate means we have no choice but to manage with less money from central government, while the demand on our services and costs increases. This issue has been heightened further as we deal with the aftereffects of the pandemic and other national and international economic impacts. The extended delay to local government funding reform means the council continues to suffer from one year only national settlements, which persist to reduce the funding available.

We therefore need to ensure that every pound spent is done so efficiently and achieves the maximum possible benefit, whilst also looking to generate additional income to support our front-line services. We are proud of our council tax setting history - and maintaining our place as one of the lowest charging councils in the country is an integral part of our financial strategies. We are determined to meet our financial challenges whilst continuing to provide value for money for our residents and businesses.

To deliver this priority, our objectives and actions are:

### To ensure the council remains financially secure in the long term

- ~~a) Introducing and complying with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) new Financial Management Code.~~
- a) Deliver the council's action plan to ensure compliance with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Financial Management Code
- b) Produce a Medium Term Financial Strategy that recognises the impact of funding reform and, delivers a balanced approach to meeting funding gaps.

### Maintain a low council tax

- a) Ensure our council tax remains in the lowest quartile nationally.

### Maintain our assets to maximise financial returns

- a) Update the council's asset management plan.
- b) Approve a new planned maintenance programme.
- c) Ensure that voids within our commercial property portfolio are re-let at the earliest opportunity.

### Deliver the council's commercial strategy

- a) Deliver the approved trade waste business case to make the service commercially viable.
- ~~b) Ensure that the Ubico resource made available as a result of the bulky waste review is redeployed.~~
- ~~c) Deliver the One Legal service review and action plan.~~
- b) Develop an action plan to finalise the One Legal Services review.



“The borough occupies a **strategic location** and we want the local economy to thrive”

## Economic growth

Tewkesbury Borough remains the place to do business and was rated as the strongest local economy in the UK for local businesses to most likely to recover well from the pandemic (Raisin UK- April 2021).

As our economic growth recovers, we will continue to utilise our successful Growth Hub so our current businesses, and businesses wanting to locate within our borough, are given the help and support to thrive. We are committed to delivering employment land and housing, together with the right infrastructure and skills to attract new investment, retaining and strengthening existing businesses.

We are excited to see Tewkesbury playing a starring role in the UK’s most prestigious cycle race- the Tour of Britain later in the year. We will work hard to promote our borough and its assets to visitors, to help future prosperity of our borough and the local tourism industry

To deliver this priority, our objectives and actions are:

### Deliver our strategic plans and economic development plans

- a) To deliver an economic assessment of businesses within Tewkesbury Borough.
- b) ~~Deliver 50 workshops/events through the Tewkesbury Growth Hub.~~
- b) **Develop and launch the new Economic Development and Tourism Strategy.**
- e) ~~Work with the Local Enterprise Partnership and other partners to deliver the Local Industrial Strategy.~~
- c) Launch a Tewkesbury Borough Council Business Grants scheme. (r)

### Deliver employment land and infrastructure to facilitate economic growth

- a) Deliver employment land through allocating land in the **Joint Strategic Plan (JSP)** ~~Joint Core Strategy (JCS)~~ and Tewkesbury Borough Plan (TBP).
- b) Work with partners to secure transport infrastructure improvements for the all-ways Junction 10.
- e) ~~Publish the Infrastructure Funding Statement.~~

### Deliver borough regeneration schemes

- a) ~~Increase community engagement through delivery of a range of community initiatives and events for the Tewkesbury High Street Heritage Action Zone.~~
- a) **Undertake a community streets audit within the Tewkesbury High Street Heritage Action Zone**
- b) ~~Introduce a shop-front grant scheme through the Tewkesbury High Street Heritage Action Zone.~~
- b) **To deliver projects as part of the Tewkesbury High Street Heritage Action Zone, including Shop Front Scheme, Upper Floors Scheme and Traditional Skills.**
- c) **Develop an Investment Plan for the Borough through the Shared Prosperity Fund.**
- d) **Re-commence the regeneration of Tewkesbury Town projects.**

### Promote the borough as an attractive place to live and visit

- a) ~~Work with Cotswold Tourism to increase digital marketing to promote the borough.~~
- a) **Work with Cotswold Tourism and Visit Gloucestershire to promote the borough.**
- b) ~~Celebrate with partners the significance of 2021 for Tewkesbury.~~
- b) **Provide support for the promotion and delivery of the Tour of Britain cycle race.**





“We recognise how important it is for residents to feel part of their communities”

## Housing and communities

Our borough is recognised as one of the fastest-growing districts outside of London (ONS 2020) and without doubt, our ambition for growth is unprecedented for a borough of our size. We are committed to punching above our weight and creating a ‘sustainable place’ to meet the needs of our growing population. We’ve recognise the pressure the pandemic has brought to our communities, and we will continue to work closely with our partners to help ease the strain.

Our new Housing and Homelessness Strategy (2022 to 2026) is key in delivering this priority - with its own actions it will be monitored separately through our Overview and Scrutiny Committee. One of the key actions within it is to deliver an Empty Homes Strategy to help make better use of existing homes.

To deliver this priority, our objectives and actions are:

### Deliver the housing needs of our communities

- a) Work with partners to undertake the required review of the ~~JCS~~ **JSP**.
- b) Finalise and adopt the Tewkesbury Borough Plan.
- ~~e) Developing a fit for purpose four year housing strategy.~~
- c) **Deliver an Empty Homes Strategy.**
- d) Carry out housing needs assessments to deliver affordable housing in rural areas.
- e) **Increase the temporary housing accommodation supply.**

### Ensure development plans provide for the five year land supply requirement

- a) Ensure adequate land is allocated within the ~~JCS~~ **JSP** and Tewkesbury Borough Plan to meet housing need.
- ~~b) Work with developers and stakeholders to deliver sustainable sites to meet housing needs.~~

### Support infrastructure and facilities delivery to enable sustainable communities

- a) Work with partners, infrastructure providers and developers, to progress the delivery of key sites.
- ~~b) Provide training to parish councils on Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies.~~
- b) **Adopt a revised charging schedule for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).**
- ~~e) Support community groups to access funding to deliver improved community facilities.~~
- c) **Work with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) to access funding to deliver improved community facilities.**



“We want to provide the **best possible service** to all of our customers”

## Customer first

We simply would not exist without our customers, and we aim to provide a really positive council experience no matter how we are contacted. The pandemic has reshaped how we operate as a council – we are now a much more flexible and agile organisation and it has highlighted just how important it is that we deliver quality services that are easily accessible to all.

Our Business Transformation Team continues to improve service delivery and customer engagement by providing more of our services online. This vital work helps to free up our skilled officers so they can support those customers that need the more traditional methods of communication or require more complex care.

To deliver this priority, our objectives and actions are:

### Maintain our culture of continuous service improvement.

- a) Continue to improve the proactive homelessness prevention programme.
- ~~b) Continue to build on the early success of our new bulky waste service.~~
- ~~c) Deliver the planning service improvement plan.~~
- b) Set up a planning agents forum.**
- c) Review the Environmental Health Service. (r)
- d) Maximise the use of business intelligence within the council to ensure the accuracy of the rating list and help businesses build resilience. (r)
- e) Continue to review the operational effectiveness of our return to the office and the opportunities provided through agile working. (r)
- f) Carry out a full review of the licensing services.**

### Develop online services to achieve ‘digital by preference, access for all’

- a) Carry out a review of our corporate website.
- ~~b) Implement an online offering for the licensing service.~~
- ~~c) Implement a digital solution to improve internal HR processes.~~
- b) Explore the opportunity for an online offering for our cemeteries function.
- c) Create a planning application tracker.**







“Deliver a masterplan that sets out the key principles and quality development expected ”

## Garden communities

We will work with Homes England and other partners to develop plans for the garden town communities at Ashchurch in Tewkesbury and the Golden Valley Garden Village in Cheltenham. These garden communities reflect our commitment to delivering sustainable, well-designed and vibrant communities where people can live, work and raise families. Improving transport links, education provision and green infrastructure, such as new parks and cycle routes will all play a big role in the development of these new communities. .

To deliver this priority, our objectives and actions are:

### Delivery of Tewkesbury Garden Town

- ~~a) Formally establish the garden town planning status through the JCS.~~
- a) Support the garden town planning status through the JSP site assessment process.
- ~~b) Prepare a design guide and sustainability strategy.~~
- b) Prepare a design manual.
- ~~e) Deliver the planning and design phase of the Ashchurch and Northway Bridge Over Rail.~~
- c) Finalise the design and launch the construction phase of the Ashchurch and Northway Bridge Over Rail (ANBOR).
- d) Work with partners to progress the business case for the J9 and A46 improvements.
- ~~e) Actively seek capital funding with our partners to support the programme.~~ Submit a further Garden Community Capacity Funding bid for 2022/23. (r)
- f) Work with partners to maximise sustainable development principles and low carbon technologies as part of the Garden Communities programme. (r)
- g) Conclude the assessment of the delivery vehicle for the Garden Town and submit the business case to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

### Delivery of Golden Valley Garden Community village

- a) Work with Cheltenham Borough Council and landowners towards the submission of a planning application in accordance with the Golden Valley Supplementary Planning Document.
- ~~b) Prepare a land assembly programme to aid in the delivery of the Garden Village.~~





“Deliver the **climate emergency** action plan”

## Sustainable environment

We recognise the ongoing importance of managing carbon footprint and supporting our climate change declaration. Our commitment to this is reflected in the appointment of a carbon reduction programme officer, whose focus is to help us to deliver the third year of our carbon reduction action plan.

Our borough is full of natural assets and built heritage, and we are committed to preserving and enhancing these. We also know that reducing waste and increasing recycling is key to helping our environment flourish, and we will work with our residents to promote responsible waste and recycling habits.

To deliver this priority, our objectives and actions are

### Deliver the carbon reduction action plan

- ~~a) Deliver the Public Services Centre's low carbon heating and solar PV systems.~~
- a) Deliver the solar car parking canopy at the Public Services Centre.
- ~~b) Embed our carbon reduction objectives within council services and raise awareness of our programme across staff, communities and partners.~~
- b) Develop a communication plan and roll out carbon literacy training to ensure stakeholders are well informed and knowledgeable of the Council's progress towards its carbon reduction objectives.
- c) Source and secure funding opportunities to support the delivery of our carbon reduction programme.

### Promote a healthy and flourishing environment in the borough

- a) Establish ~~planning~~ policies to ensure the delivery of healthy and sustainable communities.
- ~~b) Support community led bio-diversity projects across the borough.~~
- b) Promote a healthier lifestyle through working with Active Gloucestershire through the 'we can move' programme. (r)
- c) Carry out a review of our litter pickers' scheme.

- d) Work with the Integrated Locality Partnership (ILP) to build community resilience within the borough and reduce health inequalities. (r)
- e) Commence planning and scoping study for implications of, and opportunities for, borough- wide decarbonisation. (r)
- f) Deploy CCTV cameras in fly-tipping hotspots.

### Promote responsible recycling across the borough

- ~~a) Take a robust approach towards fly tipping and other environmental crimes.~~
- a) Undertake proactive marketing campaign of the new bulky waste service.
- b) Work with the Gloucestershire Waste and Resources Partnership to improve our recycling figures and reduce waste.
- ~~e) Introduce a small Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) scheme across the borough.~~

### Preserve and enhance the natural assets and built heritage of our borough

- ~~a) Utilise the high street heritage action zone funding to implement a programme of projects that contribute towards regeneration and enhancement of the town's historic environment.~~
- ~~b) Adopt a Shopfront Design Guide (SPD) to provide guidance on shopfronts to ensure they contribute to a quality urban and historic environment.~~
- a) Establish and publish a local list of non-designated heritage assets in the borough.





## Keeping our performance on track

Good performance management is when an organisation knows it is doing the right things well. To monitor how well we are performing, our performance management framework includes a council plan performance tracker. The tracker monitors the progress in delivering the actions which support each priority theme and this year we have incorporated the remaining longer-term actions from our council's Covid-19 Corporate Recovery Plan. The tracker details each individual action, a feasible implementation date, accountable officer, a status column plus a comments section to provide an overview on the delivery. Progress is reported on a quarterly basis to our Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Supporting the tracker is a set of key performance indicators and a financial summary analysis. The findings from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee review are personally reported by the chair of committee to the council's Executive Committee.

Supporting our performance management framework and delivery of this Council Plan are other key governance processes such as our:

- Risk management framework
- Project management framework
- Communications strategy
- Transformation programme
- Digital and ICT strategies

Collectively, the above provides a good oversight on what we are delivering and alert us to when we need to take remedial action.

We look forward to reporting our Council Plan success and as always the plan will be refreshed annually to ensure it remains a live document.

Should you require any further information about the Council Plan, please contact: **Graeme Simpson, Head of Corporate Services**  
email: [graeme.simpson@tewkesbury.gov.uk](mailto:graeme.simpson@tewkesbury.gov.uk)





## Our achievements 2021-22 (year two)

### Finance and resources

- Setting the budget for 2022/23, despite the financial challenges facing the council, the budget includes the addition of £450,050 of ongoing growth in our services and £392,548 of one-off growth to further support services and our Council Plan ambitions.
- Four leases were agreed in 2021/22 to ensure any voids within our commercial portfolio were filled, estimating our rental income portfolio to be £3.2m per year.
- Our trade waste service is in the early stages of an end-to-end transformation. A project officer was appointed during the year and is leading on a full review of the service.
- A £77,000 saving has been made on the successful completion of our bulky waste review.
- We successfully recruited to the new Director of Law post – a new beginning for our established One Legal shared service.
- Our garden waste club saw an increase in income of £45,000, taking the total to over £1m.
- In its first year the Business Transformation Team has been recognised nationally. It was also recently awarded Bronze at the iESE Public Sector Transformation Awards for the Best Transformation Team and was shortlisted for the LGC 'Team of the Year' award.
- Our services continue to be provided at excellent value-for-money - with our council tax remaining one of the lowest in the country.
- In June, we reduced the ongoing cost of the senior management structure by deleting the deputy chief executive post.

### Economic growth

- The Growth Hub delivered 53 events, which was above its target of 50 for the year.
- We continue to work closely with Gloucestershire County Council to secure transport improvements for the delivery of an all-ways Junction 10 on the M5. A 10-week public consultation took place, and the feedback received will be used to shape the final design.
- We successfully launched a shop front grant scheme in September 2021, which is a key strand in helping deliver an exciting three-year High Street Heritage Action Zone programme.
- In November 2021 we worked with partners to celebrate the significance of 2021 for Tewkesbury, with one of the key events 'Tewkesbury Festival of Light' attracting more than 5,000 attendees.
- Some of Tewkesbury Borough's key tourism hotspots were visited by Laurence Robertson MP in March to highlight English Tourism Week.

### Housing and communities

- The main modifications of our Tewkesbury Borough Local Plan finished its consultation in January 2022 - adoption is expected in spring 2022.
- We've supported over 300 community groups with funding advice.
- A new Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2022-26 was approved by Council in April 2022.
- A Local Development Scheme was recently approved at Executive Committee setting out the revised timetable for our development plans.





## Our achievements 2021-22 (year two)

- Supported the delivery of over 150 affordable new homes. We prevented 137 homelessness cases and provided housing advice to a further 170 cases.
- We've continued to work with partners within Tewkesbury and Brockworth through the Integrated Locality Partnership Scheme. A scheme that looks at community wellbeing and building community resilience to help lead to positive health outcomes.
- We approved funding of £10,000 per year for the next five years to support the Active Gloucestershire 'We Can Move' project, which aims to get more people enjoying an active life through physical activity.
- Through our digital platform we have been able to offer the option for residents to sign up to paperless council tax bills.
- We launched a digital recruitment system (Eploy) supported with a new recruitment microsite - a modern and professional portal which helps support the council present itself as an employer of choice and makes it easier for prospective applicants to engage with us.
- We continue to provide a grant of £52,000 to the Citizens' Advice Bureau, helping them to provide support to over 1200 members of the community. For 2021/22, residents using the service have benefited from nearly £270,000 of financial gains.

### Customer first

- Our bulky waste service has been completely transformed - a new contractor was appointed, introducing a recycling option. Income has increased by over 100%, customer wait times have reduced from 5/6 weeks to less than 1 week and there is now the facility to book the service online.
- The implementation of our new 4 Cs (compliments, comments, concerns, complaints) 'Have your Say' framework was launched for customers. We continue to be high performers nationally in relation to the small number of complaints we receive.
- Committed to continuous service improvement we have implemented service reviews in key service areas: Development Management, Licensing and One Legal.
- The Business Transformation team has successfully implemented a new digital platform 'Liberty Create'. This involved reviewing and improving around 50 processes such as 'report it', Freedom of Information requests, data requests and 'Have Your Say'.

### Garden communities

- Work has started on producing a sustainable strategy for Tewkesbury Garden Town.
- We've been working closely with Cheltenham Borough Council and landowners to support delivery of the Golden Valley Garden Community. HBD X Factory has been selected as the preferred development partner.
- We recruited a dedicated communication officer to help provide dedicated support to the garden communities projects.
- We have been working with stakeholders and Sec Newgate (engagement consultants) to prepare and create a Community Engagement Strategy.

### Sustainable environment

- We were awarded £284,000 of funding to install a solar canopy within the staff car park and planning permission has been approved. A further £447,000 was approved by Executive Committee to deliver the project.



## Our achievements 2021-22 (year two)

- To support our carbon reduction ambitions a new carbon reduction officer role was approved and has been successfully recruited to.
- In August we introduced a small Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) kerbside recycling scheme. Since going live over seven tonnes of electrical waste has been collected.
- We appointed a heritage engagement officer who will develop a local list of non-designated heritage assets within the borough.
- We delivered the first year of our 'climate change and carbon reduction action plan', which saw survey work being undertaken at the Roses Theatre, new solar parking machines installed, the creation of energy diaries for all council buildings.
- Our garden waste club continues to provide an easy and sustainable way for our customers to dispose of their garden waste - with more than 19,000 customers signed up to the scheme and 7200 tonnes of garden waste collected and composted.
- The community development team has provided support to 10 community led bio-diversity projects.
- Our five work streams of the jointly-funded £2.1m High Street Heritage Action Zone will help preserve and enhance the assets and characteristics of the local high street.
- Multiple improvements have been carried out to the Grangefield public open space in Bishop's Cleeve, which has enhanced the biodiversity and natural habitats for wildlife.
- Recently, we worked with Grangefield Primary School in planting over 20 fruit trees at the site as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

### Covid-19 response

- The ongoing work of the business grants team has been phenomenal - administering over 18 grant schemes throughout the year, resulting in 5,477 individual grants being awarded in excess of £31.6m.
- We awarded a total £423,600 to residents through the Covid-19 test and trace support scheme.
- We have supported various voluntary and community sector groups with Covid-19 small community grants. Since the scheme started in April 2020, more than £128,499 has been awarded.
- We have worked with Gloucestershire County Council to deliver the Holidays Activities Fund and provide food vouchers during the summer and winter school holidays. We issued over 2070 food vouchers to residents.
- Over £31,000 of Covid Contain Outbreak Management (COMF) funding has been used to help 27 households.
- We delivered the 'Welcome Back Fund', an extension of the re-opening of the High Street Safety fund, which resulted in a total of nearly £170,000 of funding being directed to revitalising our high streets after the pandemic. Our 'Let's Spring Back and Rediscover Local' campaigns helped to promote that our local high streets were back open and encouraged residents to shop locally.
- Throughout the year we have continued to supply detailed Covid-19 financial monitoring returns to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).
- In partnership with Places Leisure, we supported the successful operational recovery of Tewkesbury Leisure Centre.





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Produced: May 2022