

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

23 July 2024

Town Clerk's Open Report

Agenda Item

1. Stratford-upon-Avon Strategic Partnership – Town Centre Strategy

(Councillor Vos – Town Council representative on Strategic Partnership)

- **To endorse the Strategy for public consultation.**

The Strategic Partnership have published a Strategy/Prospectus (Appendix **) that sets out an agreed vision and direction of travel for the town centre, including identifying a list of projects and initiatives to deliver the vision. By having this strategy published as a prospectus this will also help demonstrate community and stakeholder support for the various projects and assist in bidding for funding opportunities to deliver the much-needed projects for the town centre.

Within this document there is a draft vision, mission, key themes, strategic projects and priorities which have been identified. These were identified through facilitated workshop sessions with a variety of stakeholders, including all local authorities.

The Town Council has been identified on a number of projects. The Council will need to reflect on the appropriateness of this and may wish to respond to this as part of the consultation.

The options open to Council are to endorse or not endorse the document for public consultation.

2. Integrated Transport Strategy & Action Plan

(Councillor I Fradgley, Town Council representative on Town Transport Group)

- **To endorse the Integrated Transport Strategy & Action Plan**

To consider the Integrated Transport Strategy (Appendix *) which has been produced by the Town Transport Group and builds on the approved Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Strategy is aimed at enhancing transport solutions for Stratford-upon-Avon, improving the environment for residents and visitors, and making travel more efficient.

The Strategy aims to revitalise the town centre by removing and relocating traffic, while increasing the use of sustainable forms of transport. Specific actions are proposed to deliver the plan and these are identified within the Action Plan.

The Action Plan outlines specific steps that will be taken to execute the strategy, including some immediate actions required to advance long-term solutions in order to be ready to apply for funding if and when future funding streams become available.

The Transport Vision for Stratford-upon-Avon is for:

- a town that is easy to access and move about in; for all, no matter what their purpose, length of stay, or arrival and departure times.
- has a pedestrianised core which provides a safe, pollution free, and welcoming environment, which presents the town's heritage and assets in the best possible way.
- with multi-modal transport solutions, including both public and private modes, active travel and "last mile" solutions, designed to provide the access to, and mobility around, the town.

The options open to Council are to endorse or not endorse the Strategy.

3. Climate Change Group/Community Services Committee

- **To consider the amalgamation of climate change responsibilities within the Terms of Reference of the Community Services Committee**

Following a discussion with members of the Climate Change Group (CCG), it has become evident that the current format of the Group was not yielding the desired results and struggling to reach a quorum at times. As a result of this dialogue, the suggestion has been made to incorporate the responsibilities of the CCG into the

Terms of Reference for the Community Services Committee (CSC). Subsequently, the committee will be renamed, Community Services and Environment Committee to better reflect its expanded scope.

Emphasising the advantages of establishing task and finish groups, this approach would offer a more focused strategy for addressing specific issues. These groups can convene virtually at any convenient time and include members of the Committee, other Councillors, and community stakeholders if desired. Task and finish groups would be encouraged to conduct thorough research and analysis, and report their findings to the main committee upon completion.

The options available are to agree to the proposal to combine the CSC and CCG (Terms of Reference to be reported to the first meeting of the new Committee), Not to combine, or to suggest an alternative proposal.

4. Title given to the Councillor chairing meetings

- **To consider the naming of the person chairing Council meetings.**

At Finance and Audit Committee on 4 June 2024 (Minute 13 refers) discussion had taken place on the appropriate title for the councillor chairing meetings of Council committees. Terms which could be used recognised as; chair/chairman/chairwoman/chairperson/madam chairman/madam chairperson.

To provide consistency for this Council, Councillors are invited to review the current use of the term "Chairman" in council communications and operations. The objective is to assess whether this term is outdated and to propose alternative terms that align with modern, inclusive language practices of using gender-neutral language to promote equality and inclusivity.

Many organisations have transitioned away from gender-specific terms to embrace more inclusive language. The British Chambers of Commerce, Institute of Directors, and CBI have, in 2022, published an open letter calling on government to 'stop using the outdated word chairman':

<https://www.britishchambers.org.uk/news/2022/03/leading-business-groups-call-on-government-to-stop-using-archaic-word-chairman/>

The title "Chairman" is compliant with the Local Government Act of 1972. However, both Warwick and Leamington Town Councils have opted to use "Chair" for the position of the head of the committee, as have the County Council and District Council.

Councillors are asked to deliberate on this matter and to approve the implementation of an appropriate alternative term, if considered necessary.

Town Clerk
17 July 2024