

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON TOWN COUNCIL

24 September 2024

Town Clerk's Open Report

Agenda Item 14

1. Integrated Transport Strategy & Action Plan

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

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

Further to the earlier presentation from the Chairman of the Transport Group, to consider the Integrated Transport Strategy (Appendix 8) 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.

2. Warwickshire Association of Local Councils – AGM

- **To appoint one voting member for the Warwickshire Association of Local Councils AGM**

All Councillors and officers are invited to attend the event on Wednesday 6th November 2024 at The University of Warwick, Wellesbourne Campus, Warwickshire, CV35 9EF, commencing at 9.30am. For the AGM, the Town Council must appoint one voting member (officer or councillor).

3. Appointment to Outside Body – Two Shires Greenway

- **To consider a Town Councillor appointment**

A request has been received for a Town Councillor to be appointed to the above. Members will recall that the Town Council has supported the project financially.

The project aims to deliver a new Greenway from Evesham to Alcester and Broom to Stratford

- To promote safe and responsible leisure routes (e.g. cycling, walking) within and across Parish boundaries thereby improving the health and well-being of the local population
- To provide a forum for neighbouring communities establish links with safe cycle and pathway routes
- To champion and seek funding for the development of an improved infrastructure for cyclists and walkers in the area
- To provide a source of information and advice to local and visiting cyclists and walkers
- To promote tourism and encourage visiting cyclists and walkers to use local businesses
- To reduce dependency on the motor car, reduce pollution and so improve our environment

4. Members Allowances

- **To consider an annual review**

It is a requirement of the Terms of Reference for Council for Councillors to conduct an annual review of members' allowances.

As Councillors are aware, Stratford-upon-Avon Town Councillors do not receive an allowance for their service. Currently, Councillors can claim reimbursement for any expenses incurred while on Council business, such as car parking whilst undertaking meetings or duties for the Town Council.

The ability for local councils to pay allowances is provided under The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003. The allowance is to compensate Councillors for their time and expenses incurred in carrying out their duties. This is not mandatory, and it is up to each council to decide whether to offer this allowance.

The Mayor receives a separate allowance to cover his expense during his/her mayoral year.

Councillors are asked whether they wish to consider investigating the implementation of a basic allowance for Councillors or not.

5. Community Infrastructure Levy - Purchase of Land at Cemetery

- **To consider the use of the Community Infrastructure Levy fund for the purchase of the land for the Cemetery Extension project.**

Members are asked to give consideration to the utilisation of CIL funds for the purchase of the land and associated costs for the planned extension. The land purchase is £40,000, as it is considered that this project aligns with the relevant criteria.

*CIL monies can be spent on the **provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure**, or*

anything else that is concerned with addressing demands that development places on an area.

The Town Council's CIL policy was agreed in October 2021 and can be viewed at [Policies and Documents, Stratford Town Council \(stratford-tc.gov.uk\)](https://stratford-tc.gov.uk/policies-and-documents)

Accordingly, it is **recommended** that the contribution for the purchase of land from the District Council and associated costs for the project be allocated from CIL designated reserve, to the extent that the balances permit. The Town Council could also be approaching the District Council for access to their Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS). However, this is currently under review, and there is no guarantee of our eligibility.

Town Clerk
18 September 2024