

Town Clerk's Report to Policy & Resources Committee 8th January 2019

The Town Clerk reports every two months to the Policy & Resources Committee with an edited version presented to the Area Board. Agenda items are highlighted and normally include an officer's recommendation. Other matters are provided as report items only.

POLICY

1.1 Review of Wiltshire Council Electoral Divisions – The Local Government Boundary Committee for England (LGBCE) is reviewing electoral arrangements for Wiltshire Council. LGBCE is minded that Wiltshire Council should retain 98 councillors. The initial consultation ran 28/08/18-05/11/18. The Town Council approved the Town Clerk's recommendation in September and as the basis for the Town Council's response to the consultation. Further consultation on the draft proposals will be ongoing when the March 2019 meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee is held.

1.2 Community Governance Review (CGR) – The Town Council Strategy says;

Trowbridge Town Council will continue the campaign to ensure that Trowbridge can have A TOWN COUNCIL FOR ALL OF THE TOWN, including all the built up urban areas which are not connected to their respective villages and if necessary will seek a further Community Governance Review when Ashton Park urban extension is being built-out or if other areas of development take place on the edges of the current town boundary, but recognises that this is unlikely to take effect before 2025.

When it concluded the review in 2016 Wiltshire Council indicated that it would reconsider areas once development had taken place. When the new Wiltshire Council divisions are established in 2021 the town council may request a Community Governance Review to include areas into which the town has grown.

1.3 Policies – (AGENDA ITEM 9) - The following are presented for approval in January:

- a) Grievance
- b) Leavers
- c) Recruitment
- d) Publication Scheme
- e) Risk Management
- f) Buying & Selling of Annual Leave

1.4 Bath Clean Air Zone. – Bath & North East Somerset Council has consulted on the proposal to introduce a clean air charging zone (CAZ) in Bath City Centre including the junction of the A36 and A4 north of Cleveland Bridge, such that older vehicles not meeting more stringent emissions criteria would be charged a daily fee. The Town Council responded to the consultation proposing a number of amendments to the proposed boundaries.

1.5 Fairtrade – The Council has recently agreed to renew its commitment to Trowbridge being a Fairtrade town.

1.6 Markets – The Council has recently agreed to support the establishment of a monthly market on one Saturday each month. Cllr Palmen is coordinating.

2. RESOURCES – Delegated to the Head of Service: Resources & Venues, Juliet Weimar.

2.1 Financial Resources - Quarterly accounts (April-June, July-Sept, Oct-Dec & Jan-March) are presented to each spending committee and collectively to Policy & Resources Committee.

2.2 Risk & Audit Panel (AGENDA ITEM 10) - The notes of the Risk & Audit Panel meeting held on Wednesday 2nd January 2019 will be considered by the committee. (copy to be circulated).

2.3 Management Accounts - The third quarter accounts up to the end of December will be presented to the committee for consideration in March.

2.4 Deferred Core Grant Applications (AGENDA ITEM 12) (copies sent electronically)

To consider the following (when reviewing and adopting the revised Grants Policy for 2019/20, which will inform the Budget for 2019/20)

a) Core Grant requests

- Cyber Café for disabled people (Disabled online)
- Back on Track Stroke Rehab Service
- Wiltshire Mind

b) Grants Policy

2.5 Budget 2019/20 – (AGENDA ITEM 13) The proposals show an increase in total operational expenditure of £79,428 from £1,744,625 (18/19) to £1,824,053 (19/20)

Council Tax Base – This is expressed as ‘Band D’ equivalents, any changes account for new houses built in the past year, single person discounts and other adjusting factors, it has increased by 124.32 (1.08%) from 11549.55 (2018) to 11673.87 (2019). This generates an additional £18,522 of council tax at 2018/19 rates.

Inflation – September Consumer Prices Index (CPI) was +2.4% and Retail Prices Index (RPI) was +3.3%.

Excessive Council Tax Increases, Referendum Principles – The limits applicable to; District Councils in 2019 are the higher of £5.00 or 3% on the Band D Council Tax Charge and; Wiltshire Council is 5%, (3% general increase and 2% Social Care Precept.) The government has confirmed it will not extend these to Parish & Town Councils in 2019 or 2020. The Secretary of State announced in December 2017; “I can also confirm the government intends to defer the setting of council tax referendum principles for town and parish councils. This is subject to the sector taking all available steps to mitigate the need for council tax increases and the government seeing clear evidence of restraint in the increases set by the sector as a whole.”

Localisation of Council Tax Support Grant – Wiltshire Council does not pass on any of this on to town and parish councils, ensuring that local councils are financially independent.

Community Infrastructure Levy – Around £24k has been received this year against the budget of £58k. Based upon 50% of the pipeline of new developments being delivered in 2019/20 we have included £66,460 in the budget for 2019/20 which therefore reduces the precept requirement.

Salary award – the new national agreement includes a 2% annual increase on all pay grades with a higher increase for the lower grades of up to 7.3%, ensuring that the lowest grades stay above the National Living Wage. As with last year’s increases, this has a significant impact on those departments employing the most people and people at lower grades, such as Leisure Services.

DEPARTMENTAL ONGOING ACTIVITIES OPERATIONAL BUDGETS:

100 CULTURAL SERVICES £195,592

A reduction of £66k reflecting closure of the Museum during expansion project building works.

200 LEISURE SERVICES £219,898

An increase of £13k accounted for by the implementation of the pay award to align with increases in the National Living Wage.

269 INFORMATION SERVICES £148,605

A reduction of £24k based upon anticipated increases in income including towards Active Festival.

400 POLICY & RESOURCES £511,185

An increase of £142k due to this account now including the salaries of the three Heads of Service.

500 NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES £231,315

A decrease of £30k, resulting from the management restructure.

600 VENUE SERVICES £402,783

An increase of £33k reflecting reduced utilisation of the Civic Centre.

700 FACILITIES £114,674

A reduction of £15k reflecting reduced building refurbishment and maintenance.

PROJECT BUDGETS: These are now incorporated into department totals.

RESERVES: The contribution to reserves is increased to £40k for 2019/20, (with higher contributions planned through to 2021/22, to bring General Reserves up to 25% of net revenue expenditure.

Trowbridge Town Council

2019 January Report

Working with the Community

ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS: I am aware that a number of members have been assessing the impact on the budget of increased levels of support to external organisations and increased levels of activity in areas which have in the past been the responsibility of Wiltshire Council. A further increase of £5 on the Band D Council Tax Charge would raise an additional **£58,333**.

OTHER TOWN COUNCILS: Councils have published decisions or recommendations as follows:

Council	2018/19	2019/20	Change	
Calne	£210.31	£210.31	£0.00	0%
Salisbury	£208.00	£208.00	£0.00	0%
Royal Wootton Bassett	£199.81	£204.81	£5.00	+2.50%
Malmesbury	£199.51	£205.49	£5.98	+3.00%
Marlborough	£187.97	£195.13	£7.16	+3.81%
Cricklade	£185.47	?		
Bradford on Avon	£174.42	?		
Chippenham	£174.20	£239.61	£65.41	+37.55%
Devizes	£153.77	£159.71	£5.94	+3.86%
Corsham	£153.52	?		
Wiltshire Council towns AVERAGE	£152.50	£157.65		
Trowbridge	£148.99	£153.98	£4.99	+3.35%
Melksham	£140.78	?		
Tidworth	£135.29	?		
Westbury	£129.58	£132.94	£3.36	+2.59%
Wilton	£128.28	?		
Warminster	£124.13	?		
Ludgershall	£100.97	?		
Amesbury	£88.21	?		
Durrington	£54.21	?		
Stratton St Margaret	£189.96	?		
Swindon South	£114.90	£114.90	£0.00	+0%
Swindon North	£114.83	?		
West Swindon	£93.11	?		

The other councils have not yet published recommendations or decisions.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee approves the following **RECOMMENDATION** to Council:

- That the Council approves the department Budgets for 2019/20 as detailed on the budget spreadsheets, totalling **£1,824,052**
- That the Council approves that the contribution to General Reserves for 2019/20 be **£40,000**
- That the Committee recommends to Council therefore a total budget requirement for 2019/20 of **£1,864,052**

And that this is funded in part through estimated income for 2019/20 from Community Infrastructure Levy of **(£66,460)**
Leaving a net precept requirement for 2019/20 of **£1,797,592**

Which results in an increase of **£4.99** (within the government's limit for District Councils) on the Trowbridge Town Council 'Band D' Council Tax Charge, to **£153.98**
Which is less than **£3** per week.

2.5 HUMAN RESOURCES

2.5.1 New Starters

- Victoria Spriggs - Event Support & Admin Officer, starts 1st February working 20 hours per week.

2.5.2 Staff Changes

- Ellie Osborne – appointed HR Officer on 1st November following completion of apprenticeship.
- Adam Casserly – appointed Active Trowbridge Coach Development Officer as of 1st January.
- Aaron Seviour – appointed Active Trowbridge Commercial Development Officer as of 1st January.
- Jasmine Todd and Richard Rees – appointed Leisure Service Supervisors as of 1st January.

2.5.3 Leavers - None

2.5.4 Recruitment - Currently recruiting for Facilities Maintenance Officer, 20hrs/wk.

3. SERVICES

Heads of Services make detailed reports to their respective committees which are published the week before the committee meeting. Trish Carpenter is the Council Secretary responsible for administering these committees.

3.1 CULTURAL & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES – Delegated to Head of Service: Cultural and Neighbourhoods, Clare Lyall. Full updates will be in reports to committees on 26th March.

3.1.1 MUSEUM – The award-winning museum in the Shires Shopping Centre tells the story of west of England woollen cloth manufacturing and its influence on the town. Working with The Friends of Trowbridge Museum and other cultural organisations to develop cultural aspects of the community. The Museum closed in June for two years for the expansion project to be implemented.

3.1.2 NEIGHBOURHOODS – Our Neighbourhoods team look after play areas, recreation grounds and support the activities of Wiltshire Council in looking after our streets.

3.2 VENUE SERVICES – Delegated to Head of Service: Resources & Venues, Juliet Weimar.

3.2.1 CIVIC BOARD - The Board is responsible for overseeing the commercial operation of The Civic. The Civic Board minutes of the meeting held on 27th November are presented to this committee. Next meeting 5th February.

3.2.1.1 Public Toilets – The Board resolved at their meeting on 27th November to open the toilets on the ground floor of The Civic to the public, providing a notice is placed in the Foyer window stating the opening times of the toilets and a disclaimer in respect of certain days when The Civic is booked for exclusive hire. Quotes are being acquired on demolishing the toilets which will be presented to Full Council for their consideration at their meeting on 15th January 2019.

3.3 LEISURE & INFORMATION SERVICES – Delegated to Head of Service: Leisure & Facilities, Hayley Bell. Next meeting 26th February, a full update is provided in the report to committee.

3.3.1 ACTIVE TROWBRIDGE – Sports Coaching in schools and community sports activities.

3.3.2 INFORMATION SERVICES – Everything you need to Discover TROWBRIDGE.

3.3.3 FACILITIES – Providing a range of buildings and spaces for the community.

4. TOWN COUNCIL PROJECTS

4.1 Museum Project – The Town Council Strategy says;

Trowbridge Town Council will; complete the project ‘Onwards and Upwards’ to expand Trowbridge Museum; secure funding from the HLF and other funders and; will contribute around £900,000, funded from borrowing at a cost of up to £50,000 per annum. The new Museum will reach out from its base in Home Mills in The Shires, to encompass the whole town, through visual links from the top floor, interpretation and signage at key locations and significant buildings linked to the museum.

The HLF has made a grant of £1,172,500 towards the £2.45million project. The Friends of Trowbridge Museum has contributed £150,000 towards the project so far, and the Town Council has borrowed £450,000 towards the project, with a further £450,000 due to be borrowed in 2019/20. The Museum is closed and packing, transporting and storage of the collection is now complete. The construction contract

is out to tender and work is due to commence in Spring 2019. The new Museum, expanded to cover two floors with a new lift shaft is due to open in 2020.

4.2 Sports Pitches Project – The Town Council Strategy says;

Trowbridge Town Council will support and if necessary be actively involved in:

a. Provision of an all-weather pitch at Doric Park in conjunction with national sports funders and other organisations.

b. Development of the Health & Well-being Centre by Wiltshire Council in the town centre.

4.2.1 Doric Park - We are now progressing the development of the land at Doric Park to provide an all-weather pitch, car-parking, changing rooms and possibly education facilities (in conjunction with Wiltshire College). Other funding is available from S106 and grants such as the Football Foundation. Framework consultants RLF and QMP are detailing proposals and we have engaged Carter Jonas as our agents. We will now seek to negotiate an agreement with the Rugby Club on access and land transfer prior to submitting a planning application. We have concluded that it is not possible to provide the squash facilities as funding from new developments has not progressed as we had hoped. We are in discussions with the College regarding their daytime use of the facility and anticipate providing them with suitable education and gym facilities to suit their requirements.

4.2.2 Grass Pitch Development - Ashton Park - Following consultation by Wiltshire Council's Leisure & Play Strategy Officer, Colin Brown, with West Ashton and North Bradley PCs about proposed sports pitches, changing accommodation and car-park at Ashton Park, it is uncertain when the facilities will be constructed. Whilst both parishes wish to be involved in negotiations they are happy to let Trowbridge TC lead and make a decision on which council will take up the mantle later in the process, rather than a Management Company taking on this role. The facility is due to be located on the West side of the West Ashton Road and will be provided by the developer with additional maintenance funding. Further discussions are due to be held with Persimmon and the two parish councils during January.

4.3 Town Park – Refurbishment of Tennis Courts – We have now obtained planning permission for the new low energy floodlights which will be installed using further S106 funding during 2019.

4.4 St George's Works – Gaiger Bros. subsidiary Tresco Ltd are developing 30 residential apartments. The application also includes a new town park storage facility and access gates from the Post Office Access Road. When completed next year the town council will be able to build its new storage facility. Full Council confirmed that it wishes to seek borrowing approval for up to £300,000 towards the project, at an annual cost of around £15,000 (which was the previous budget annual expenditure on our storage facility at St George's Works). The developer is making a contribution of £43,752.35 via a S106 agreement and the development will generate around £13,000 of Community Infrastructure Levy. The borrowing application has now been submitted to MHCLG.

5. **CIVIC & DEMOCRATIC ACTIVITIES**

5.1 Council Meeting Dates - Council and committee meetings for the next few months are:

Tuesday 15 th January	Full Council	
Tuesday 29 th January	Town Development	
Tuesday 5 th February	Civic Board 2pm	
12 th February	NO MEETING	
Tuesday 19 th February	Town Development	
Tuesday 26 th February	Risk & Audit Panel (3pm)	Leisure & Information Services (7pm)
Tuesday 5 th March	Policy & Resources	
Tuesday 12 th March	Town Development	
Tuesday 19 th March	Full Council	
Tuesday 26 th March	Museum (6.00pm)	Neighbourhoods (6.30pm)

5.2 Dates for your diary:

Civic Dinner – Saturday 23rd March 2019

5.3 Twinning - Trowbridge is twinned with four communities:

5.3.1 Leer in Ostfriesland, Germany Discussions are still ongoing with regard to the 30th anniversary of the twinning and a delegation from Leer visiting Trowbridge next summer.

5.3.2 Charenton-le-Pont on the outskirts of Paris, France.



5.3.3 Elblag in Poland (with the other four towns in West Wiltshire).

5.3.4 Oujda in Morocco.

6. TOWN DEVELOPMENT – Committee meets 8th January 6pm, 29th January, 19th February 7pm.

The committee considers all regulatory matters consulted on by Wiltshire Council including planning, listed building and tree applications, road closure, traffic regulation and licensing.

6.1 Trowbridge Neighbourhood Plan – The Steering Group is now in the progress of reviewing the Scoping Report, The Masterplan and the initial consultation results. The Steering Group also met with representatives from other parishes on 23rd October and decided to continue such joint discussions in future. The next joint meeting will be in February to which Cllr Henry (portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning at Wiltshire Council) has been invited.

6.2 Housing Sites Allocation Plan (HSAP) – The Planning Inspector, Steven Lee requested that Wiltshire Council undertake a further period of consultation on the Proposed Changes to the HSAP which were approved by Wiltshire Council on 10th July. The consultation commenced on 27th September and ran until 9th November. It then became apparent that some Parish Councils had not been informed of the consultation and the period was extended for them. The Inquiry in Public is now expected to be held at the Civic Centre in April. The Town Council responded to the consultation on the Proposed Changes to the Housing Sites Allocation Plan of Wiltshire Council as follows:

Trowbridge Town Council does not support the proposed allocation at Southwick Court nor the following sites, all of which are contrary to the Wiltshire Core Strategy:

H2.3 Elizabeth Way	355
H 2.2 Land off the A363 at White Horse Business Park	175

And is equally opposed to the increased allocation at the above two sites as per the Proposed Changes PC51, PC55 and PC60. The Wiltshire Core Strategy says at paragraph 5.150 page 181.

- it is recognised that the villages surrounding Trowbridge, particularly Hilperton, Southwick North Bradley and West Ashton, have separate and distinct identities as villages. Open countryside should be maintained to protect the character and identity of these villages as separate communities. The local communities may wish to consider this matter in more detail in any future community-led neighbourhood planning

Trowbridge Town Council agrees that open countryside should be maintained and contends that the now proposed ‘strategic landscape buffer between Trowbridge and the village of North Bradley’ (PC60) will fail to maintain open countryside and is therefore unsound.

6.3 Wiltshire Core Strategy Review – The Town Council considers that in order for Trowbridge to continue to grow in the period beyond 2026, without compromising the integrity of our neighbouring villages of Hilperton, West Ashton, North Bradley and Southwick then a review of the Green Belt to the North West and West of the town will be required, potentially removing Greenbelt status from some areas close to the town for future housing development.

6.4 Other Neighbourhood Plans

6.4.1 Hilperton, Holt and Bradford on Avon - ‘Made’ by Wiltshire Council. Now form part of the Wiltshire Council Development Plan and the policies given full weight when assessing planning applications that affect land in the areas.

6.4.2 North Bradley and West Ashton – Are both awaiting confirmation from Wiltshire Council before they can progress to Regulation 14 consultation and referendum.

6.4.3 Southwick has been designated as Neighbourhood Plan area.

6.4.4 Staverton, Steeple Ashton and Wingfield have not commenced the process.

6.5 Development Sites

6.5.1 Commercial/Mixed-use sites

Bowers – www.innoxmills.co.uk are close to agreement with a developer with a track record of developing mixed use sites. The town council supports at least 300 houses on this site. The developer is expected to meet with the Town Clerk in February prior to submitting their pre-application.

County Hall East – Wiltshire Council have made a mixed use outline application including the new health facilities to replace the hospital and new leisure facilities as well as 54 apartments (also see 8.1.3 below)

6.5.2 Housing Sites – Some were delayed pending resolution of mitigation measures associated with Bechstein Bats at Biss and Green Lane Woods. The following provides a summary of the situation.

A. Ashton Park and associated sites.

Ashton Park – Persimmon (mainly in West Ashton and North Bradley Parishes), [15/04736/OUT](#) for 2,500 houses, employment, facilities, schools and A350 improvement was permitted in April.

Southview Park - Wain Homes development complete, including the cycle/footway to Drynham Rd. Applications [16/00547/FUL](#) [17/12509/FUL](#) for up to 121 new dwellings. Concerns about access links to the rest of Ashton Park, the LEAP at Southview Park and the cycling and walking network were raised.

B. Sites within the settlement boundary

B1. Under Construction

Court Mills – [18/03020/FUL](#) Being converted to 7 town houses overlooking the Town Park.

St George's Works – 30 apartments [18/02924/VAR](#) overlooking the Town Park (see 4.5 above).

Bradley Road – Former District Council site [Newland Homes](#) permission [17/05669/FUL](#) for 79 homes.

B2. Permitted

White Horse Business Park - (North Bradley Parish) Application to convert offices to 104 new homes.

B3. Applications Submitted

Courtfield House – Ashford Homes [18/04656/FUL](#) conversion with a further 16 houses in the grounds.

United Church Buildings – [18/03856/LBC](#) for conversion into 25 apartments.

McDonogh Court – [18/02099/FUL](#) for construction of 20 houses and flats off Polebarn Road.

Clark's Mill – [18/00200/FUL](#) for conversion to 19 dwellings next to the Town Bridge.

Former Margaret Stancomb School – Selwood Housing application [18/10554/FUL](#) to provide 21 new residential properties including 3 in the converted school building.

B4. Potential

Ashton Street Centre – To be disposed of by Wiltshire Council should accommodate 70 dwellings.

Homefield House – Owned by E J Shanley, expect an application for residential conversion.

Hospital – Promoted in the 'One Public Estate' bid by Wiltshire Council and partners as a site for up to 200 houses including Charterhouse (above) and the:

C. Promoted by Wiltshire Council in the Housing Site Allocations Plan (HSAP):

C1. Opposed by the Town Council (contrary to the Core Strategy, 'maintain open countryside')

South West of Elizabeth Way (Hilperton Gap) 263/297 - (Hilperton Parish) [Framptons](#) application [16/00672/OUT](#) 170 houses, access off Elizabeth Way. The HSAP has increased the site to 355 houses.

Southwick Court 3565 – (Southwick and North Bradley Parishes) Savills on behalf of Waddeton Park are promoting development on land between the town boundary and Southwick Court, east of Frome Road. www.landsouthofrowbridge.co.uk/ indicating road access off Frome Rd, 180 houses. North Bradley Neighbourhood Plan is indicating acceptance of this site (only small part in North Bradley).

Land off the A363 White Horse Business Park (East of Woodmarsh) 298 – (North Bradley Parish) Proposed for 175 houses. A plan put forward by North Bradley to allocate only small areas on the edge of the village and the Business Park, could achieve a satisfactory open countryside buffer.

C2. Supported by the Town Council

Elm Grove Farm 613/248 – (partly in North Bradley Parish) Coulston Estates, are promoting development at Elm Grove Farm and land adjacent to Drynham Lane and west of the railway line with a view to bringing the site forward to provide 250 houses and a new school. Wiltshire Council are now seeking to use the Recreation Ground to provide the new school in a shorter timescale and provide enhanced recreation facilities as part of the wider development. An application is expected early in 2019. The developer is due to make a presentation to the Town Development Committee on 29th January.

Church Lane 1021 – Accessed directly off Frome Road is in the town boundary; 45 houses now subject to an outline application [18/10035/OUT](#).

Spring Meadows 3260 – Accessed off Frome Rd is inside the town boundary; 45 houses.

D. Sites Discounted by Wiltshire Council.

Castle Mead Extension – Persimmon - Application [16/03420/FUL](#) for 272 more homes up to Green Lane Wood was withdrawn. The Bat reports indicate this site cannot proceed in the foreseeable future.

Ashton Road - (Steeple Ashton Parish) [Taylor Wimpey](#) 200 homes north of Green Lane Wood [16/04468/OUT](#) refused. The Bat reports indicate that this site cannot proceed in the foreseeable future.

Biss Farm - Application for 267 houses [17/09961/OUT](#), primary school, pub and care-home submitted by Persimmon north of Leap Gate and east of West Ashton Road, currently allocated for employment uses.

7. TROWBRIDGE PARTNERSHIPS - The Council Strategy says:

Building partnerships to ensure that others are also investing in our town.

7.1 Transforming Trowbridge – The Town Council is the accountable body for TT, which works with businesses to develop economic activity and support facilities and services, which can help to create a community to attract employers and quality jobs.

7.2 Trowbridge Town Team – The Town Council is the accountable body for TTT. The organisation concentrates on developing the entrepreneurial skills of Young People under the GOFISH programme.

7.3 Trowbridge Community Area Future (TCAF) – Works with partners to address priorities in the Joint Strategic Assessment in our most deprived communities (Studley Green-10%, Seymour/Adcroft & Longfield-20%). TCAF receives an annual grant from the town council, utilises the Town Council's Cabin at Seymour Recreation Ground on a peppercorn rent and operates the Community Hub in the Shires. Councillors interested in using the hub for surgeries should contact tcaf@trowbridge.gov.uk. Staff: Julie Baptista – Community Project Co-ordinator left on 21st December. TCAF has recruited Zoe Meaden, Community Project Co-ordinator & Administrator. Louise Williams, Community Administrator – on Maternity leave. Meg Aubrey, Project Manager Youth & Community Development. Sarah Holland, Youth Work Coordinator. Emma Heath & Mya Wootten, Youth Support Workers

7.4 Cock Hill Solar Community Fund. Support local applicants with grants from a £15k/annum fund. Applications should be made to the Wiltshire Community Foundation.

7.5 Chamber of Commerce – Tracey Parker (Leykers) is President of Trowbridge Chamber.

7.6 Trowbridge Talking News – service for the visually impaired, TIC is the drop off point.

7.7 Selwood Housing - the main social housing provider in Trowbridge.

7.8 Trowbridge Town Hall Task & Finish Group – (AGENDA ITEM 7) The Group has met with various parties; a full report is provided separately. It has concluded these **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Policy & Resources Committee makes the following RECOMMENDATION to Council.

That Trowbridge Town Hall Trust is offered a grant of £20,000 in 2019/2020 split into four quarterly payments of £5000 each, paid in April 2019, July 2019, October 2019 and January 2020. On condition that:

A. Prior to the first payment being made, Trowbridge Town Hall Trust introduces a membership arrangement whereby volunteers, members of the public and corporate bodies can become members of the Trust through payment of a subscription and therefore attend and vote at Annual General Meetings and other similar meetings of the Trust.

B. Prior to the second payment being made, Trowbridge Town Hall Trust introduces changes to facilitate greater transparency to the processes for the appointment of Trustees, as approved by Trowbridge Town Council and the Charity Commission.

(For example, this may include changes to the constitution to allow for Trustees to be appointed by Trowbridge Town Council, by Friends of Trowbridge Community Sensory Garden (registered charity 1106281), by User Organisations, by members at the Annual Meeting of the Trust and by co-option by the existing Trustees.)

C. That none of the grant provided by Trowbridge Town Council is used to pay salaries.

8. WILTSHIRE

8.1 Wiltshire Council

8.1.1 Area Board – Next meeting Thursday 10th January 2019 (6.30 for 7pm Cotswold Space County Hall). Community Engagement Manager for Trowbridge, Mary Cullen compiles the and manages grant applications for community grants.

8.1.2 Local Youth Network – The LYN Management Group considers grant applications from Youth activity and support organisations and makes recommendations to the Area Board.

8.1.3 Waiting Restrictions – Wiltshire Council is progressing the list of requests compiled since 2011 and has provided reasons why some such requests are not being progressed. They are also assessing the requests related to potential wide area and College Residents' Parking Zones (RPZ).

8.1.4 Car-Parks – The Town Clerk finally received a reply on 30th October, to the letter to Cllr Bridget Wayman sent on 18th April requesting the transfer of Bradford Road Car-Park and consideration of the transfer of the Broad Street Car-Parks. The reply confirmed that Wiltshire Council would not transfer any of these car-parks to the town council. The Town Clerk also received a reply to the Freedom of Information request to Wiltshire Council regarding expenditure and income from car-parks in Trowbridge. The reply states as follows:

The cost of providing paid for car-parks in Trowbridge? £128,328

The income generated from the paid for car-parks in Trowbridge?

Wiltshire Council doesn't hold this information.

Wiltshire Council has now resolved to sell the multi-storey car-park to the owners of Castle Place. If this proceeds, the current restrictions on charging would fall. The new owners are likely to wish to redevelop the site, with the retention of parking for their customers at Castle Place and St Stephen's Place.

8.1.5 Asset & Service Delegation – Alan Richell, Growth & Investment Programme Director has confirmed that Wiltshire Council intend to commence discussions regarding the transfer of any remaining local facilities, amenities and services to the town council at the end of 2019. In addition to play areas, the Town Park, allotments, closed churchyards and grit bins already transferred, the council may consider in future taking over recreation grounds (Stallards, Seymour, Elm Grove), amenity grass (including Paxcroft Brook), open spaces and the management and control of car-parks. These have been factored in to the long-term financial plan. The Town Council would also be interested in the delegation of street trading licensing. No funding is available for town and parish councils taking on additional assets and services.

Play Areas – The town council is now responsible for maintaining play equipment on the 24 WC play areas. We have not received the management agreements and until such time we will not be responsible for grass cutting at the play areas. We have received £25,000 which is half of the £50k transfer fee and as a result have taken responsibility for inspections. We will receive the second half and the S106 maintenance funds once the agreements are signed, hopefully before the end of the financial year.

Street Cleaning - Wiltshire Council undertakes the statutory minimum utilising the barrow operative and a mechanical sweeper, there is no value proposition available to the town council to take on these activities. The alternative option is to leave these activities with Wiltshire Council and their contractors, whilst the town council secures resources to improve the outer areas and undertake activities not deemed necessary by Wiltshire Council. This approach will be coordinated by the town council to ensure reports are being made on the App system and town centre resources applied to priorities. The council has now purchased a weed-ripper and has included in the budget resources to purchase a drive-on street sweeper and two part-time operatives.

Litter Bins - We are currently considering the costs associated with the emptying of litter bins if we were to provide additional bins over and above those provided by Wiltshire Council.

Bus Shelters – We may consider transfer of the remaining shelters in 2019.

8.2 Health Services – Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group (WCCG) is responsible for commissioning 'Primary Care' services to people in Wiltshire and registered with Wiltshire GPs.

8.2.1 Maternity Care - (AGENDA ITEM 8) Sarah MacLennan, Associate Director of Communications & Engagement and Lucy Baker, Director, gave a presentation at Full Council on 20th November 2018.

To consider a formal response to the CCG and the Town Clerk's **RECOMMENDATION:**

That, having considered the presentation given to the council and the evidence provided in the reports and consultation documents, whilst the Town Council regrets the closure of the Maternity Unit at Trowbridge, it is clear that the evidence indicates that the success of Midwife-Led maternity care, pioneered at Trowbridge, is now being demonstrated in other locations and settings as the future preferred service model, and that offering this choice to pregnant mothers alongside general hospital obstetrics units is offering the best range of options and reducing risk, whilst retaining choice, and therefore Trowbridge Town Council supports the proposal by Wiltshire CCG to establish and Alongside Midwifery Unit at the Royal United Hospital in Bath.

8.3 Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service – Information available at www.dwfire.org.uk

8.4 Wiltshire Police – Inspector Andy Fee reports regularly to Full Council meetings. Councillors and the public are urged to sign up for Community Messaging including details of charges and crimes reported.

8.5 Wiltshire Association of Local Councils - WALC is the county association for town & parish councils, affiliated to NALC the National Association. Trowbridge Town Council is a member of both.

8.6 Swindon & Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP) – at the Area Board Paddy Bradley confirmed that Trowbridge is very much part of the A350 Growth Corridor, positioned in the centre of the corridor and should receive equal weight with respect to investment into the area

8.7 Enterprise Wiltshire – No meetings recently.

8.8 Market Towns Network – The last meeting was held on 4th October in Bradford on Avon with a food & drink theme.

8.9 Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) – The Council pays the fee for the Clerk to be a member of the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC), which provides training and advice.

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