

# Salisbury Area Board

21 November 2024



November 2024

## **Purpose**

- This short presentation gives an overview on the current and recent activities of Salisbury City Council.
- The list is not meant to be exhaustive but gives a flavour of the activity currently underway.
- For those interested, I would urge attendance at local City Council meetings, or to view the publicly available minutes from <a href="Meetings">Meetings</a> | Salisbury City Council</a>
- Asa Thorpe, Chief Executive Officer, Salisbury City Council

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### **Finance Update**

- Through prudent planning, changes to budget monitoring and responsible decisions
  (supported by the Administrations Leaders and Senior Management Team), the City
  Council is reversing the challenging financial position it found itself in at the start of the
  year. Considerable progress has been made to insure financial grip and delivery across the
  Council.
- This work continues through budget setting process for 2025/26 which started in May of this year. Currently budgets to be voted on are being prepared by the current administration and the opposition.

### **General Updates**

- 1. The Council were pleased to use £50,000 of community infrastructure levy receipts to secure the Broken Bridges site for future generations as a nature reserve. The community group behind this plan used finance from the last days of Salisbury District Council, CIL as well as fundraising over £80,000.
- 2. The recent works at our Crematorium, for which we held a number of funeral services at the Guildhall, were completed on time and under budget. The new modern methods of construction on the roof should see the building fit for the next 20 years.
- 3. Working with colleagues at Wiltshire Council, we were pleased to be able to support the building of a Pump Track at Bemerton Heath.

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## **General Updates Continued**

- 4. We were pleased to support the important work of the Home Office and their Public Inquiry into the death of Dawn Sturgess. There was considerable planning and flexibility needed to support the requirements of an event of national importance, and we are proud to continue to support the family after the initial sessions in our city.
- 5. Our Councillor vacancy in St Paul's ward has now been filled following a vote at Full Council on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November. Councillor Chris Taylor was co-opted by a vote of Councilor's in attendance and will serve until all out elections in May 2025.
- 6. Work continues to refresh a number of policies and procedures across the Council and it is my hope that this will continue to support the improved financial position of the authority and our ability to support the good work of a range of public, private and charitable organisations.

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