

NON-CONFIDENTIAL



Borough of Tamworth

17 October 2022

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a **meeting of the Council of this Borough** to be held on **TUESDAY, 25TH OCTOBER, 2022** at 6.10 pm in the **TOWN HALL, MARKET STREET, TAMWORTH**, for the transaction of the following business:-

AGENDA

NON CONFIDENTIAL

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of Members' interests (pecuniary and non-pecuniary) in any matters which are to be considered at this meeting.

When Members are declaring a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in respect of which they have dispensation, they should specify the nature of such interest. Members should leave the room if they have a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in respect of which they do not have a dispensation.

3 To receive any announcements from the Mayor, Leader, Members of the Cabinet or the Chief Executive

4 State of Tamworth Debate (Pages 3 - 12)

(Report of the Leader of the Council)

Yours faithfully



CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Access arrangements

If you have any particular access requirements when attending the meeting, please contact Democratic Services on 01827 709267 or e-mail democratic-services@tamworth.gov.uk. We can then endeavour to ensure that any particular requirements you may have are catered for.

Filming of Meetings

The public part of this meeting may be filmed and broadcast. Please refer to the Council's Protocol on Filming, Videoing, Photography and Audio Recording at Council meetings which can be found [here](#) for further information.

If a member of the public is particularly concerned about being filmed, please contact a member of Democratic Services before selecting a seat.

FAQs

For further information about the Council's Committee arrangements please see the FAQ page [here](#)

Marmion House
Lichfield Street
Tamworth

COUNCIL

TUESDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2022

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

STATE OF TAMWORTH DEBATE

Exempt Information

None

Purpose

To enable Council to undertake the annual State of Tamworth Debate.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- Members use the report's contents as the basis for this debate.

Executive Summary

The annual State of Tamworth Debate provides members with the opportunity to look back at the work of the council over the last 12 months, discuss plans for the future and consider public feedback gained through consultation exercises.

It gives members the chance to comment on the council's vision and priorities and the work that is ongoing in each of the main areas of focus.

The debate is also a key part of the Budget setting process for the coming financial year.

The overriding goal is to make sure our organisation remains fit for the future, while protecting services to the most vulnerable in our community. This approach requires members to put evidence and insight at the heart of decision making to ensure that we are transparent about the rationale for our decisions and plans; it will involve managed risks and will sustain essential services critical in supporting the most vulnerable in our communities at a time when demand is increasing and resources reducing.

Significant uncertainties around the council's finances remain, pending an update on the Fair Funding Review (and Business Rates reset), as well as significant cost pressures arising from the current economic situation. Members will face difficult decisions around prioritising services when faced with significant reductions in funding.

Corporate Plan

Tamworth Borough Council's new Corporate Plan was launched earlier this year, covering the period 2022 to 2025.

It includes the new vision 'Tamworth – celebrating our heritage, creating a better future'

This will assist with our mission to 'restore Tamworth town centre as the beating heart of the community, a place that people want to visit, rather than a place they have to visit'.

The Corporate Plan details five areas of focus for the borough; including the key outcomes we are seeking to achieve and how we will work to achieve them.

The plan was brought together by members, during a number of member-led workshops and seminars, and incorporating feedback given by residents during the council's Residents Survey and Budget Consultation exercises.

Annual Residents Survey

To help elected members set the budget and priorities, residents are consulted every year on spending and savings options through the Budget Consultation. Last year, we also launched the new Annual Residents Survey which dug deeper into Tamworth as a place and the issues that matter most to the people who live and work here.

The survey was the most successful consultation exercise run by the council for many years and attracted more than 500 responses. The most common themes were used to inform the Corporate Plan.

This year, to avoid duplication and for a more efficient use of resources, the Budget Consultation and Residents Survey have been combined into one 'Tamworth Conversation'. It again includes the Local Government Association recommended questions to provide a benchmark across Local Government and to enable us to measure the results over time.

The 2022 Annual Survey is open for six weeks up to October 18 and has attracted even more responses than last year. The results will be collated and presented to members later this year to help inform the 2023-24 Budget setting process.

This process ensures that the issues, concerns and priorities of our residents continue to be reflected in the work of the council as we navigate more uncertain financial times ahead in light of the cost-of-living crisis, significant cost pressures in areas such as energy and materials, uncertainties around the finalisation of the Brexit process and the as yet unknown outcome of spending reforms.

Please see Appendix 1 for an overview of the corporate priorities and the work that has been achieved/planned against each, together with some aspirational goals, which can be used to inform this year's State of Tamworth Debate.

Resource Implications

As a result of the updated forecast in July 2022, the Central Case forecast projections now identify General Fund balances of £2.1m over three years – with a shortfall of £1.6m by 2025/26 and £5.2m over the five years to 2026/27. For the HRA, the Central Case forecast projections at July 2022 now identify HRA balances of £1.9m over three years, £1.3m by 2025/26 and £0.9m over the five years to 2026/27.

However, with a potential rent cap, increasing cost pressures (and reduced income) the situation is likely to worsen.

It is also worth noting the substantial workload that officers are facing in delivering an already ambitious plan, particularly amid the outlined financial challenges.

Legal/Risk Implications

There are none.

Sustainability Implications

There are none

List of Background papers

Corporate Vision, Priorities Plan, Budget & Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23

<https://democracy.tamworth.gov.uk/documents/s30968/Corporate%20Vision%20Priorities%20Plan%20Budget%20Medium%20Term%20Financial%20Strategy%20202223.pdf>

Quarter 1 2022/23 Performance Report, Cabinet 8th September 2022

<https://democracy.tamworth.gov.uk/documents/s32571/Appendix%201%20Quarter%20one%20202223%20performance%20report.pdf>

Tamworth Residents Survey Results 2021

https://www.tamworth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/misc_docs/Residents-Survey-2021-Results.pdf

Tamworth Residents Survey 2022

Appendices

Appendix 1 - State of Tamworth Debate Table

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State of Tamworth Debate (October 25th 2022)

[Note: Items in bold represent the top themes listed as important to residents in the 2021 Tamworth Residents Survey]

[Note: This focuses on the last 12-18 months and is in addition to other projects already running and business-as-usual work]

Corporate Priority	Issue/Actions	Achieved	Planned	Aspirational
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter & flytipping • Climate change • Recycling/garden waste charges • Improve green space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting hundreds of voluntary sector litter pickers • Flytipping fixed penalty notice issued • One Energy Hub grant to work with private landlords on minimum energy efficiency standards • Baseline carbon footprint for TBC activities established • Number of fully electric vehicles procured for StreetScene • Four fast EV charging points procured awaiting installation • New dual-stream recycling system implemented • New picnic benches in Dosthill & Castle Grounds • New Castle Grounds and Tinkers Green play areas • 11th Gold Bloom award • Jubilee Garden in Castle Grounds (won Bloom landscape award) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved Street Issues reporting via Customer Portal to provide better intelligence • Social media campaign on how to report Street Issues (eg litter) • Decarbonisation Fund improving energy efficiency of 89 council homes in Hockley • Roll out dual stream recycling at multi-occ properties • Develop Climate Change Action Plan for how we will achieve net zero goals (by 2050) • New multi-use pitch at Castle Grounds (replace tennis courts) • Lakenheath play area and Lakeside refurb • Illegal encampment defences, Rene Rd and Pennymoor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter campaigns – ID hotspots, checking intelligence • Environmental ASB campaign • Launch of litter camera (amid operational issues, availability, cost) • Further energy efficiency improvements to council stock, incl solar

Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business initiatives to promote start up and growth • Tourism • Investment/offer • Provision of quality affordable housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business grants of £23million issued • New 3-year Economic Development workplan approved • Membership of Staffordshire DMP secured to raise town's profile • Several business support programmes run, including Peer Networks and SERCO • Business consultants appointed to support town centre businesses • New Cabinet portfolio for town centre and economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of The Flex – new flexible space for food & hospitality start-ups (Middle Entry, FHSF) • £2.3m Shared Prosperity Fund investment plan submitted • New town centre grants schemes • Appoint new town centre business support advisor • New fund for town centre and tourism projects (£10k pa) • Tourism and Place Investment Strategy to be commissioned • New social housing at Wilnecote Day Centre and Caledonian. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advancing wider regeneration aims ie Gungate North (Levelling Up Fund bid) • Creation of online Tamworth Town Centre Business Hub for training information • Develop Empty Homes Strategy
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review transport links and connectivity (buses) – traffic • Improvements to roads/potholes • Parking charges are too high • Improvements to walkways/cycling • Too much development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New parking machines installed • Strategic CIL pot allocated for public realm work • 45k enquiries dealt with by Customer Services • Face-to-face Customer Service being delivered from TIC to support vulnerable residents • MyTamworth and MyHousing customer portals launched 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use data from new parking machines to review parking strategy • Local Plan review to assess impact of infrastructure and development • Continuing to work with neighbouring authorities regarding building on borders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisit Gateways project around Tamworth train station • Revisit Corporation Street improvement project • 5G rollout

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve digital access to TBC services – access to face-to-face support 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New location(s) for council services/back office 	
Living in Tamworth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pride of Place • Improve and promote cultural assets • Fear of crime/drugs/ lack of police visibility • Access to services • Investing in neighbourhoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New portfolio focused on raising Civic Pride, including launch of first successful community awards • Reopened Assems with packed programme & new cinema • Castle lighting • Castle Visitor Award • New AR Heritage Trail • Digitalisation of the castle collection • Closer working relationship with police & partners to address fear of crime, including member workshop • All CCTV cameras now upgraded • ASB Housemark accreditation renewed • Dementia Friendly Community status re-confirmed • Grant provided to Betterway Recovery for alcoholism peer support • Working with MPFT for a dedicated mental health officer for housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estate improvements & landscaping • Employment of an ASB Youth Engagement Officer to work in ‘hotspots’ • Develop positive diversionary activities • Community Safety Strategic Assessment to identify priorities and inform new plans • Appoint Community Cohesion Officer • Develop homelessness advice hub for face-to-face support • Extend Winter Relief project to all year • New affordable charging policy for temporary accommodation • Housing Services self-assessment, ready for new social housing regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore options for future of Castle assets ie Coach House • New engagement events to increase visibility of CSP partners • ‘Housing First’ pilot, providing all-round support for tenants • Support for homeowners with mortgage rescue • Roll out enhanced Decent Homes Standard+ for council stock • Explore creation of new neighbourhood impact team

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter Relief Project (support for rough sleepers) • New Neighbourhood coach and mental health nurse • New specialist temporary accommodation units • Zero B&B usage 		
Town Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the market • Enhance night-time economy • Develop outdoor events programme • Town centre accessibility • Improve leisure and food offer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New regular food festivals as part of improved market • Grant given to Street Angels • Successful Castle Summer Fest and Commonwealth Games events • FHSF – planning applications approved (Peel Café, College and TEC2) • New Transforming Tamworth website and FB group for businesses • Gungate – heads of terms for housing agreed • New interpretation panels and way-finding now in situ • Responsible Bodies Group (town centre and licensed premises partners) • Carnegie Centre let out and reopened as restaurant • Free training scheme for food and drink businesses • New Food & Drink Trail • Castle Gatehouse kiosk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Editha’s Square regeneration to facilitate improved markets and events • Co-op demolition • Tender out for TEC2 • Campaign with licensees around violence against women & girls • Supporting police with town centre Safer Nights campaign • Build on success of Castle Summer Fest • Park Run for Tamworth • Phased programme of refurbishments to Town Hall to create a more usable space for civic meetings & activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purple Flag Award (create safe and thriving locations at night for all users) • A wider variety of food and drink businesses (Flex space Middle Entry) • Taxi marshals • New town centre schemes to focus on hospitality & leisure

<p>Organisation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of consultation and no change follows • Offices not open • Mistrust of councillors (who are they?) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second annual Residents Survey completed (600+ responses) • Meetings recorded and published – increased visibility • Outreach work commissioned for CAB at Heart of Tamworth • Town Hall established as municipal hub • New Cabinet portfolio for engagement, including Citizens Panel, public consultation and member comms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New MTFs (& uncertainty around planned Fair Funding Review/ Business Rates reset impact on funding levels & current economic cost pressures) • 3rd sector support and vulnerability – working up projects for UKSPF • Developing new commissioning framework for voluntary sector • Looking at cost of living campaigns with voluntary sector • HRA business plan • Acceleration of Marmion House decommissioning • Raising profile of members on TBC website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenant involvement in new Housing and Homelessness Sub Committee (tenants at heart of decision-making) • More customers feel confident to access services digitally, ie through MyTamworth portal
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