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| **Agenda Item: 11** | **Council**  **Date of Meeting: 14th Feb 2024** |

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| **OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL** |

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| **Report Authors: Economic Strategy Working Group (ESWG)** | **Title: Economic Strategy** |
| **Subject The way ahead** | |
| **Strategic Aims:**   1. **Ensure that Oakham remains a viable and pleasant environment in which to live, work and play.** 2. **Promote the town as an attractive place to visit and stay**   The Economic Strategy Working Group (ESWG)is in the early stages of understanding the Council’s financial liabilities regarding our building stock and what opportunities might exist to raise additional funds.  It is worth noting that the ESWG is waiting on responses to the two papers lodged and approved by Full Council on the 8th November 2023.  Despite the understandable desire for action now; Information gathering, review, and assessment is not a process that should be hurried without due consideration and informed and proper guidance from external experts.  It is my belief that no development decisions should be made, or a shopping list of town centre development alternatives placed before our electorate, until OTC have costed and considered the merits of the many choices and options ahead of us. This will not be a quick process.  When considering our current building stock and as stated in previous papers, the dilemma facing council is whether to refurbish or perhaps rebuild and repurpose, or even to adopt a more strategic position which might involve relocation of assets and the previous site developed to free up much needed additional funds to complement the anticipated CIL money.  The ESWG was established on the 12th July 2023. The effort required is now better understood and the time has come for new members to join with a view to sharing the workload on what is probably the most important initiative undertaken by this council since its formation in 1974.  **Proposal**  Extend an invitation for additional members to join the ESWG, approved by Council, to share the not inconsiderable workload. | |