

Meeting Type: Full Council	Agenda Item: 23
Date of Meeting: 12 th August 2026	
OAKHAM TOWN COUNCIL	
Report Author: Samantha Haywood, Locum Clerk/RFO	Purpose: Decision
Title: STRATEGIC PLAN	
Proposal for a Renewed Council and Strategic Plan I would like to propose that Council consider to begin developing a renewed vision and strategic plan for Oakham Town Council. We all share the same objective: to serve the residents of Oakham and help our town continue to thrive. I believe this presents an excellent opportunity for us to work together, engage with our community, and establish clear priorities for the coming years. I propose that during September and October (subject to new staff in post) we undertake a programme of public consultation to understand what matters most to our residents and identify where the Council can make the greatest difference. This could include: • Holding a residents' meeting at the Council offices where councillors and staff can meet residents, listen to their views, and collect feedback. • Organising councillor surgeries / pop up stalls in accessible community locations such as the town centre, churches, schools, WI meetings and other local venues to reach as many residents as possible. Branded clothing or promotional materials could also help raise awareness of the Council's presence whilst out and about doing resident consultations. • Launching an online survey to ensure those unable to attend in person can still participate. • Asking the new temporary/Administrative Assistant to focus on promoting the consultation through social media, website updates and local communications. • If further engagement is needed, delivering a feedback form or information about the online survey to every household. • Ensure we communicate with all ages of the community from the young to the more senior. • Talk to local business for their views. • Posters around the town with a QR code which directly links to the online survey. • Where meeting residents f2f we have interactive models such as an "Ideas Wall" where residents write suggestions on sticky notes, 'Pin the Map' where residents place stickers on a large map to identify areas they want to see improvement, vision boards asking "What do you love about Oakham?" and "What would you change?", and priority voting where residents receive a set number of votes to choose the issues they feel are most important. This will help is to narrow down the top priorities as I doubt we have the resources to do everything residents want.	

Once we have gathered this information, we can use it to develop a robust 3-year strategic plan (or equivalent) that reflects the aspirations of our community. This would also provide a stronger foundation for identifying priorities, planning projects, and applying for external grant funding.

I believe this approach would bring a number of benefits:

- Residents will feel their views are valued and listened to.
- Oakham Town Council will strengthen its profile and engagement within the community.
- The Council will have a clear, evidence-based strategic plan to guide future decisions and investment.
- Councillors and staff will have shared priorities and objectives to work towards together.

For this initiative to succeed, it is important that we all commit to working together constructively. While we may not always agree on every issue, we all have a responsibility to work respectfully, support collective decisions once they have been made, and focus on achieving the best outcomes for Oakham and its residents. We all know mistakes have been made but I strongly believe we have to start looking and moving forwards, and working together in cohesion.

There is so much we could be achieving as a Council. At present, however, a significant amount of our time and energy is being consumed by internal matters. We have a choice: we can continue in that way, or we can work together constructively, focus on what really matters, and drive positive change for the people of Oakham.

This is an opportunity for us to move forward as one Council, building on our different skills, experiences and perspectives, and working together with a shared purpose for the benefit of the community.

I would welcome your thoughts and, hopefully, your support for this proposal. Other ideas are also welcomed.

Motion:

MOTION: That Council consider and decide upon undertaking a programme of public consultation to understand what matters most to our residents with the aim of drafting a robust 3-year strategic plan.

For completion by the office

<i>In Budget</i> ☐	<i>Spend Authorised</i> ☐	<i>Budget Header:</i>			<i>Amount:</i>
<i>Estimates</i> ☐	<i>Quotes</i> ☐	<i>Emergency Spend</i> ☐	<i>Sole supplier</i> ☐	<i>Specialist</i> ☐	
<i>P.O</i> ☐	<i>Invoice Checked</i> ☐	<i>Reason for spend:</i>			
<i>Legal Power: Local Government Act 1972</i> <i>amend as necessary</i>		<i>Contract Finders</i> ☐	Supplier:		