

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Council Meeting – 7 October 2008

Part 1

To deal with written questions to and receive recommendations to the Council from the Executive.

(i) Councillor Henley

Medium Term Financial Strategy

Both the Overview and Scrutiny Board and the Executive have closely considered the Medium Term Financial Strategy which contains the current policy and financial issues facing Taunton Deane.

The Council is accountable for the stewardship and use of public money and for ensuring its plans deliver financial stability and sustainability in the future towards achieving the aims of the overall Corporate Strategy.

The Financial Strategy sets out these plans in detail. A copy may be viewed in the Members Room.

It is therefore **recommended** that the Financial Strategy be approved.

(ii) Councillor Coles

Taunton Town Centre Area Action Plan and Design Code Supplementary Planning Document

The Action Plan will help to deliver Project Taunton and it explains the strategy for the regeneration of Taunton Town Centre. It provides the policy framework to guide the redevelopment of a number of important sites. These include Firepool, the Cricket Club, Coal Orchard, Morrisons, Tangier, Wood Street, Tesco, Goodland Gardens, Castle Green, High Street and East Street.

Taunton Deane Borough Council has been working closely with key partners to ensure the delivery of Project Taunton. The Action Plan explains how the various proposals will be implemented, including the roles and responsibilities of partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors. The Action Plan identifies how the regeneration of the town centre can deliver important community priorities including opportunities for training and skills, better connections to the town centre from disadvantaged communities and tackling climate change.

The Action Plan provides the basis for the Taunton Town Centre Design Code Supplementary Planning Document, which has been prepared in parallel with it.

A Design Code is a set of requirements to guide the physical development of an area. The aim is to define acceptable design quality and thereby assist the delivery of good quality new development. The Design Code acts as a tool to guide the implementation of the town centre redevelopment and a point of reference in the development control process.

Both the Action Plan and the Design Code have been the subject of extensive public consultation, including an Examination in Public by a Government appointed Inspector who concluded that the Action Plan was “sound”.

The final drafts of both documents were considered by the Local Development Framework Steering Group on Monday, 22 September 2008 when it was recommended that, to comply with the relevant legislation, the Action Plan and the Design Code should be formally adopted by the Council. On behalf of the Executive, Councillor Coles has agreed this recommendation.

Copies of both documents and the Inspector’s Report are still available for inspection in the Members Room.

It is therefore **recommended** that:-

- (1) the Taunton Town Centre Area Action Plan; and
- (2) the Taunton Town Centre Design Code Supplementary Planning Document,

be both formally adopted.

Councillor Simon Coles