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TOTTON & ELING TOWN COUNCIL

STRATEGIC
5-YEAR PLAN
2024 - 2029





**Document prepared by: The Town Clerk and
CEO, January 2024
Review Date: January 2029**



Contents

Context	2	What we do? • What achieved last year	13/14
Mission statement, Core values, Map and Introduction	3-10	What do we want to do next? • Ambitions	14/15-52
The Planning Cycle	11	List of Achievements 23-24	53-61
What is a Town Council	12	List of Achievements 22-23	62-69
What can we do? • Powers and Duties • Accountability	12	Review	70

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TOTTON & ELING TOWN COUNCIL

MISSION STATEMENT



Totton & Eling Town Council is one of the largest most progressive Town Councils in the UK.

Working side by side with the community through transparency, respect and innovation the Council aim to ensure a thriving Town which is a healthy, vibrant and a safe place to live, work and visit.

Focusing around our chosen core values the Town Council is committed to providing beneficial, high standard and value for money services for our residents, via a straightforward, responsive and empathic approach.

An ambitious and committed team of both Councillors and Officers strive to successfully deliver our many facilities, meeting with local needs, whilst celebrating and promoting the cultural and historical heritage of our Town.

We are committed to, and unwavering in, obtaining a better Town environment for both this and future generations. Through carbon reduction, nature development and attentive inclusion of the community, we hope to develop a unique, well-cared-for modern town with accessibility to all.

Representing the needs of the community we aim to, through our 5 year strategic plan, strengthen communication and stimulate community links which will give a strong and independent voice for Totton & Eling. We take precedence in our ability to develop and actively encourage pride in our Town, and its natural beautified areas.

We are dedicated to nurture, grow and drive forward our Town's welcome, together with the importance of both residents' and businesses' wellbeing. An important part of our wellbeing ethos is to communicate focused help, aid and support available to all in our area.

We listen to improve, as understanding is the key to a change for the better!

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TOTTON & ELING TOWN COUNCIL

CORE VALUES





VALUE FOR MONEY

Delivering the best value, improved facilities and high-quality services that meet the needs of our local community.

EQUALITY

Promoting equality, diversity and accessibility for everyone in our community.

VIBRANT COMMUNITY

Actively promoting creative development, fostering a unique character, culture and purpose, making our Town a vibrant, modern and prosperous place to live, work and visit.



WELCOME AND SUPPORT

We aim to enhance the Town's welcoming and supportive atmosphere, promoting inspiration, aspiration and pride in our community.

TRANSPARENCY AND RESPECT

We actively listen and improve our services, fostering openness for the enhancement of the local community.

ACCOUNTABILITY

We are committed to being accountable to all residents of Totton and Eling, engaging with diverse perspectives to achieve positive outcomes.

CONNECTED TO THE COMMUNITY

We prioritise working with all sectors of the community establishing better communication and interaction with the public and local businesses.

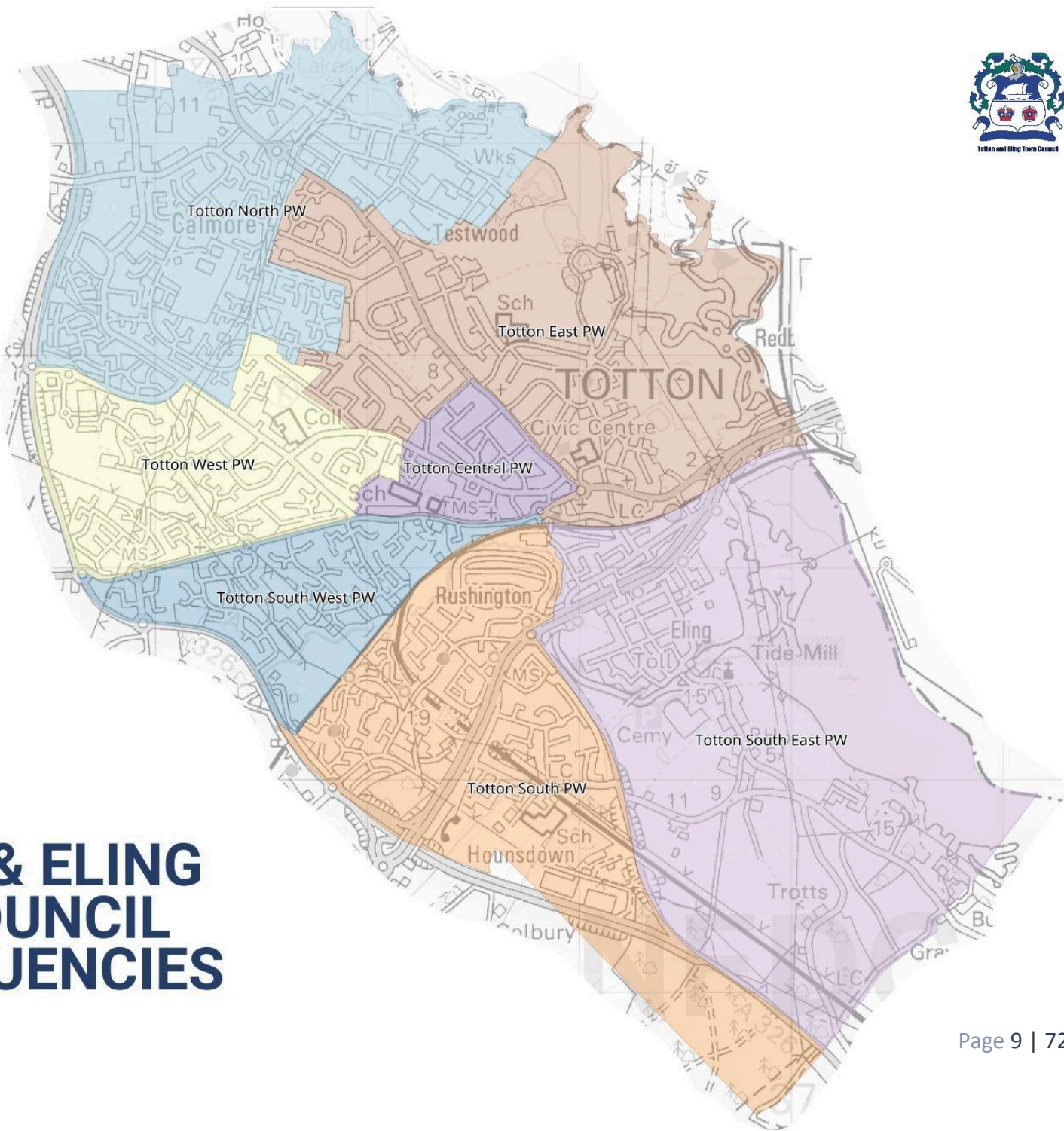


CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

We are dedicated to reducing our carbon footprint, protecting the environment and securing a sustainable future for all generations.

WELL-BEING

Our commitment is to improve the quality of life in our Town, ensuring people can live well, fulfil their expectations and thrive.



TOTTON & ELING TOWN COUNCIL WARD BOUNDARIES

The map displays the following wards and their corresponding colors:

- Totton North PW (Blue)
- Totton East PW (Orange)
- Totton West PW (Yellow)
- Totton Central PW (Purple)
- Totton South West PW (Light Blue)
- Totton South PW (Dark Orange)
- Totton South East PW (Light Purple)

Key locations and landmarks labeled on the map include:

- Galmore
- Testwood
- Redt
- Civic Centre
- Rushington
- Eling
- Tide-Mill
- Cemy
- Trotts
- Hounslow

The map also shows various roads and landmarks, including the A326 and the Totton and Eling Town Council logo in the top right corner.



Introduction

Welcome to Totton and Eling Town Council. This is our Strategic Plan – it sets out what we are going to do over a rolling year period of five years and is a statement that we must be a Town Council that is relevant and responsible. The Plan takes into account the issues facing us and our ability to respond with the resources available. It makes clear there will be choices, and how the Council will decide which to prioritise.

The Plan has been approved by your Town Councillors. It is essentially a planning tool to assist us with the practical decisions we have to take when we meet bi-monthly, supported by a review process that helps us look back on our performance. By publishing our Strategic Plan, we can help those who live, work or visit the Town see what we are doing on their behalf. The Council has devised pillars or themes that will be referred to in the plan and will form the basis for the Council's strategic aims and will comply with its code of conduct and Nolan principles, which include selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

Context

This is our first Strategic Plan, prepared at a time of austerity across society when all organisations that provide services to the community, be they public, private or voluntary are facing cost pressures and resource restrictions. The emphasis is on value for money, efficiencies, collaboration and accepting that some things just will not get done. Through a planning process though, we can have a shared vision and direction, protect what is important and consider new ways of implementing progress. The ambitions and projects included in this plan have been approved, in principle, by the Council as areas to support and resource. All projects/ambitions, which the Council feel best meet with local needs and priorities, will be kept under review and will be amended and updated as circumstances change. The Town Council have recognised the importance of establishing a Mission statement, and set of core values, which are reflected in the plan, and which are at the heart of how we operate and conduct Council business.

Totton and Eling Town Council, as the first tier of Local Government, is uniquely situated to provide the forum for understanding and supporting the needs of this community.

It provides advocacy on behalf of its residents, uses linkages to other organisations to bring in services, or directly procures them itself. Liaison with New Forest District Council happens at all levels, and there are also association to health and social care as well.



Day-to-day, the Council will seek solutions for the community, looking for skills and volunteers to make improvements to our surroundings or bringing particular neighbourhood issues to local attention to promote a better quality of life for all.

Above all your Town Council is here to help, support and encourage. This Plan tells you how.

The Planning Cycle

Planning (and performance) is a continuous process of gathering and assessing information, formulating actions, *doing them*, and then reviewing performance and gathering again.

Once specific actions are agreed to deliver this Plan, they are entered on the Actions/Task Register, which is monitored at every weekly meeting by the Town Council's Senior Leadership Team and also at monthly meetings held with the Committees Chairs.

Association

This plan is linked very closely to the allocation of resources – mostly financial, but people's time and energy too. Our finance is mostly derived from the Council Tax system, which follows the financial year April to March. Our precept, or 'demand', placed upon the Council Tax system has to be declared by January each year, in order that New Forest District Council can calculate the overall tax collection sums for each eligible household and produce the billing required. Other income is sourced through service provision.

Key dates

Therefore, this Plan will be monitored and updated, allowing it to evolve as the budget is also prepared, for final precept calculations in November. The Plan cycle will run from April to March, to match the funding available, and will be reviewed at monthly Chairs of Committee and Senior Management Team meetings to assess achievements in the previous cycle, and progress in the current one.



What is a Town Council?

A civil Town or Parish is an independent local democratic unit for villages, Towns, and suburbs or urban areas. Each Town/Parish has a Parish (or Town) meeting consisting of all its local government electors and most (where the electorate exceeds 200) have a Parish or Town Council. Over 13 million people live in such parishes, with approximately 30,000 in the Town of Totton and Eling. The Town Council is supported by Officers employed within each service area to deliver both the Council's services and policies, together with ensuring decisions are implemented appropriately.

The Town Council is a local authority. Its Councillors are elected for four years at a time in the same way as for other Councils. Bye-elections may be held to fill vacancies occurring between elections, or members may be co-opted onto the Council if no election is called. The Council is the corporation of its Town in the New Forest area, it covers the Town of Totton and Eling. In May each year the Councillors choose a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from amongst their number. In Totton and Eling, there are 20 Councillors who make up the Town Council, which employs a Clerk to manage administration and the day-to-day running of the Council and its facilities. The Town Council will adhere to good governance and best practice via its adopted and published policies/procedures and act in the interests of local people in making representation.

What can we do?

Powers and Duties

Town Councils have a number of formal powers, set out in a wide range of legislation. A duty is something that a Council must do, a power is something that it may do, if it so decides. A Town Council cannot do anything that is not permitted by law.

The Town Councillors know the Town and can now (and increasingly often do) represent their views directly to other authorities like the District and County Council at its Area Boards, Health Authorities, Police and Fire Authorities meetings.

They are entitled to be consulted on planning applications, which include work to listed buildings and on proposals in conservation areas and are often consulted on such things as schools and roads. They put the Town's case at public inquiries.



There is the power to create a Neighbourhood Plan which allows local people to get the right development for their community, but the plans must still meet the needs of the wider area.

Accountability

You elect its members every four years – the next time will be May 2027 – and you are entitled to attend the Annual Town meeting between March and June each year and to say what you think. You can also go to every meeting of the Town Council and meet the Council members, listen to their business, and participate during the time especially set aside for that purpose at the start. The accounts are strictly audited every year and published.

You can find out more about what we do, how we do it, and our meetings on the Town's website at <http://www.tottoneling-tc.gov.uk>

What do we do?

The Town Council provides a number of direct services to the community and acts as custodian to a number of assets held in the 'public name' and provide the following services:

Allotments	Parks & Open Spaces	Outdoor paddling pools and splash park	Leisure & sports facilities
Halls for Hire	Public conveniences	Memorials	Public notice boards
Boat moorings	Bus shelters	Community safety warden	Heritage site and café
Skate park	Cycle track	Town benches	Walking routes

Although New Forest District Council is the Planning Authority, the Town Council is consulted on each planning application made in the Town. Councillors consider planning applications at their meetings and inform New Forest District Council of their views and recommendations.

At each meeting of the Council, reports from a variety of Town organisations are received, and Councillors seek to provide support where necessary or requested in order that local groups can continue to thrive.



Each meeting considers issues for our communities such as planning (for example, housing, change of use or tree felling) crime and community safety, facilities for all generations, or items of maintenance in the 'public realm' that need reporting to appropriate authorities. The Council can act as advocate for residents, a conduit for communicating information, and will liaise with appropriate departments of other public authorities to ensure that views, comments and necessary actions are dealt with.

What we achieved in the last year

Between 2022 and 2023, we have achieved a wide range of improvements, both to the way we work, and to the community we serve. These are listed later in this document.

Established policy reviews and formulation such as Equal Opportunity, Members and Officers Best Practice, Annual Leave and a General Reserves Policy are but a few actioned during 2022/23.

Considered: planning applications, grant applications, activities, events, legislation, projects, most of which were supported by the Council together with policies and procedures.

What do we want to do next?

The Town Council has worked through the Town's Committees and Group's findings and has developed a 5-year Strategic Plan. This plan has been built around our Mission Statement, Core Values and public consultation. As a live document it will be expanded and evolved as it develops.

The table attached sets out the Strategic Plan adopted by the Council, and which will be implemented over the next five years:



5 YEAR PLAN

WELLBEING, HEALTH & SAFETY – Supporting life satisfaction, achievement and security.

Ambition	Council Committee/ Department	Timescale	Success would be	Progress At: 25/07/24
Formulation of a Youth Council	Wellbeing Group Policy & Resources Committee	0 – 1 year	To implement and support a well-attended Youth Council, encouraging good communications with the Council and for young people to take part in the democratic governance of the Town.	Approval given and Councillors were appointed at Full Council on 31.07.24, to converse with school Councils to gain young people's input on projects and activities in the Town. Proposed first school visit scheduled for September 2024. On-going.
Resident's Forum	Wellbeing Group Policy & Resources Committee	0 – 1 year	Giving residents a voice and allowing them to advise the Council of issues, and requests. Additionally, providing	Update from meeting in April 2024 verified that existing Residents' Associations already have strong Council liaisons.



			feedback to the public, will enhance communication, confidence and thus provide a better place to live and work.	Recommendations for a residents' evening event have now been cancelled due to lack of support. On-going
Business Forum	Town Clerk Wellbeing Group	0 – 1 year	Forming a business forum will provide support to the businesses in the Town giving the opportunity for input and thus encouraging a thriving community.	Two meetings have been held resulting in some positive feed back. A business forum social media page is being investigated. The last meeting held in May was not attended by any businesses in the Town.
Follow and review Town Council's Health & Safety Policy	Policy & Resources Committee	0 – 5 years	Ensure the Town Council provide a legal, safe, and secure working environment for staff, Councillors, volunteers and service users.	Health & Safety annual audit was completed in March 2024. Policy was renewed in March 2024. Next due for renewal March 2025. On-going
Health & Safety/Fire training for staff	Town Clerk HR Department	0 – 5 years	Recognising the importance of training being given to staff for their safety and wellbeing.	On-going H & S/Fire training courses organised for all staff. Fire drills are held on a 6 monthly basis.



Expand CCTV coverage of the Town	Amenities Committee, Policy & Resources Committee	0 – 5 years	Provide a safer environment by supporting anti-crime and disorder within the Town, giving residents, visitors and businesses a sense of security and peace of mind.	Additional cameras in areas of the Town are being considered. Awaiting response on feasibility studies on suggested areas.
Uphold diversity, equality and inclusion within the Town	Policy & Resources Committee	0 – 5 years	By the introduction of improved facilities and open spaces the Town Council would reiterate and develop its commitment to working towards all individuals making use of those facilities in line with health & safety, legislation and inclusivity.	Funding for this play equipment will be from CIL monies, and appropriate inclusive equipment is being sought.



IT, COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING – Building trust, confidence and success through strengthened communication.				

Ambition	Council Committee/ Department	Timescale	Success would be	Progress At: 25/07/24
Digital play area, tree, and allotment inspections	IT, Communications & Marketing Task & Finish Group IT Officer	0 – 1 year	More accurate and detailed digital inspections, would assist in identifying insurance liability responsibility, an improved Health & Safety focus and the implementation of preventative measures.	Equipment and software are presently being researched. On-going
To encourage residents to have their say, and provide input and feedback to the Council via our website and social media pages	IT, Communications & Marketing Group. IT Officer.	0 – 5 years	Improvement of public participation in decision making and ideas/suggestions for facility provision and improvements for the Town.	Part of the Council's IT improvements. On-going
Support and increase the range of information	IT, Communications & Marketing Group	0 – 5 years	Improvement of communication channels	Part of the Council's IT improvements. Links to



available to residents in relation to community projects, activities and services.	IT Officer		to provide the community with up to date, and accurate information for the betterment of wellbeing, business and civic pride.	support and aid groups will be incorporated into the new website for maximum awareness of what is on offer for residents. Groups are being added as part of the expansion of the new website. On-going
Identification of IT opportunities	IT, Communications & Marketing Group IT Officer	0 – 5 years	By monitoring and identifying up and coming IT this will enable reform and more efficient staff and Councillor operation.	Upgrades of CPU's at the Civic Centre are required for new windows package, by October 2025 when the support for the present package ends. Costs will be evaluated via the tendering process. On-going.



POLICY – Assurance of compliance, best practice and values.

Ambition	Council Committee/ Department	Timescale	Success would be	Progress At: 25/07/24
Review of fit for purpose Standing Orders, and Financial Regulations	Policy & Resources Committee Town Clerk	0- 2 years	Updated, more defined and inclusive standing orders for improved governance and policy adherence.	Commencement on the standing orders review is underway and good progress is being made. On-going
Review of Byelaws	Policy & Resources Committee public consultation, government bodies Town Clerk	0 – 3 years	Reformed byelaws more relevant to the provision in the Town. Improved governance and byelaw adherence.	Anticipate commencement in Summer 2025. On-going
Press & Media Policy	Policy & Resources Committee Town Clerk IT, Communications Officer	0 – 1 year	Formulation of a Press & Media Policy will define transparency and the communications process from the Council.	Formulation of policy has been commenced. On-going.



Dispensation Policy	Policy & Resources Committee Town Clerk		This policy will ensure the Town Council acts accordingly with the localism act 2011 and will interpret the procedure of both Councillor dispensation application and award.	Formulation of policy has commenced. On-going
Complaints Policy			An updated, more defined and inclusive Complaints' policy will improve in regard to procedure advice, governance and policy adherence.	A revised policy was presented and approved at Full Council on 31.07.24.
On-going staff structure review.	Town Clerk Personnel Sub Committee (if applicable)	0-5 years	Periodic review to ensure staffing structure meets business needs and requirements.	Monitoring and assessment in progress. On-going

HERITAGE, ARTS & CULTURE – preserving heritage and culture, together with Town creativity and identity.



Ambition	Council Committee/ Department	Timescale	Success would be	Progress At: 25/07/24
Bollard painting	Amenities Committee	0 – 2 years	Providing individualisation and making the Town more attractive and welcoming for both residents and visitors.	War memorial bollards have already been completed. Further bollard decoration estimated throughout 2024. On-going
Provide support for arts, cultural events and activities in the Town	Amenities Committee Policy & Resources Committee IT Officer	0 – 5 years	Bringing cultural/artistic awareness and education to the Town. Increasing footfall relating to events, businesses and Town facilities for communal utilisation and enjoyment.	Consideration for support of art and cultural event requests are regularly received and are welcomed by the Council. On-going
Provide Amenities for Arts and cultural performance	Amenities Committee	0 - 5 years	Continuance of the leasing of the Council's Hanger Farm facility and introduction of a performance area in the Town Park, will uphold and expand the Communities' exposure to, and enjoyment of, Arts and Culture in the Town.	Continuance of support for Arts and Cultural performance is through the Hanger Farm Arts Centre, via Arts Festival aid and promotion of this stunning facility. Meetings with Hanger Farm Arts Centre are held on a 6 monthly basis.



				On-going
Support continuation and improvement of the Eling Tide Mill Experience and to promote local historical interest	Amenities Committee	0 – 5 years	The Council's preservation, support and funding of this prime heritage site will ensure the provision to local residents and visitors offering the continued opportunity to enjoy this unique historical site.	<p>The Tide Mill is undergoing repairs. The café and visitors centre are now open for 5 days per week during the winter months and events and funding are being applied to the experience as a whole throughout the year to encourage more visitors to this worthy venue. Meetings are being held with landlord in relation to improvements to Eling slipway area.</p> <p>On-going</p>

INFRASTRUCTURE – Striving for improved accessibility, enabling better community interaction.



Ambition	Council Committee/ Department	Timescale	Success would be	Progress At: 25/07/24
Better Road infrastructure in the Town Centre, with more accessibility for cyclists and walkers	Planning Committee	0 – 5 years	The Council wish to instigate a walking & cycling transformation in the Town Centre which would allow better access, numerous health benefits, greener travel and road safety; subsequently promoting increased wellbeing and equity.	The Town Council are liaising with the County and District Council formulating a partnership which will progress the reform of the Town Centre infrastructure. A further meeting was held in July to discuss the formulation of a masterplan framework which was presented at Full Council on 31.07.24. Next meeting is scheduled for October. 2024. On-going
Better access to public transport	Planning Committee	0 – 5 years	Better public transport would provide people with access to essential services, employment and improved social integration. Additionally, it will reduce congestion and air pollution and offer	The Council have an objective to work toward increasing the public transport in the Town to develop better quality community and equitable mobility.



			a more affordable transport option.	On-going
Increased and improved long term free parking in the Town	Planning Committee	0 – 5 years	More available long term free parking would produce increased foot traffic, a strengthened local economy, together with attracting more visitors and improved accessibility to public services, recreational facilities and health care.	The Planning Committee are examining options to improve the long-term free parking in the Town, which will not only improve the versatility of parking choices but assist in eliminating on-street parking issues for residents. Work is proceeding with the District Council for assistance in delivering better parking. A letter of objection to the increased parking and parking clock charges was sent to NFDC from the Town Council in December 2023. A petition from residents objecting to the parking fees/clock charges has been collated and was sent to the District Council for consideration in mid-



				February 2024. The District Council have advised that there are no plans to review the increase in charges. On-going
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GOVERNANCE, VISION AND STRATEGY – allowing evolved suggestion, inspiration, and measure of success.

Ambition	Council Committee/ Department	Timescale	Success would be	Progress At: 25/07/24
Digital recording of meetings	IT, Communications & Marketing Group IT, Communications and Marketing Officer	0-2 years	Digital recording of meetings will enable better transparency and improved community involvement in the Council's governance.	The Town Council approved a Recording, Photography and use of Social Media at Meetings policy in September 2023. Progression to visual meeting recordings is in incorporated in the Council's IT improvements. On-going



<p>Improve the image of and pride within the Town, making it more attractive for residents, visitors and businesses</p>	<p>Communications & Marketing Group Amenities Committee</p>	<p>0 – 5 years</p>	<p>Ensuring a more positive image and individual character will help us reinvent the Town and boost retail, leisure and events for community participation. Town pride provides community focus and is a critical part of communal betterment of welfare.</p>	<p>The Town Council have formulated a Wellbeing group which is centred on improvement of Town pride, thus encouraging volunteers and groups to support activities for the common good of the Town's population. Budgets and intensity of planting in the Town has increased, and plans for a community health bus are being discussed between local parish/town Councils, but will be dependent on obtaining funding.</p> <p>On-going</p>
<p>Continue to improve relationships between Councillors and Officers</p>	<p>Town Clerk</p>	<p>0 – 5 years</p>	<p>Improved communication between both Officers and Councillors will enhance unity in both the decision making and day-to-day running of the Council services, together</p>	<p>Monthly meetings with the Chairs of Committees and Senior Management occur where discussion permits communication and builds positive relationship between</p>



			with more effective communication to the community.	Officers and Councillors. This in turn aids the monitoring of projects, their deliverance and best value application. Regular meetings of Officers and Councillors are organised throughout the year. On-going
On-going staff structure review	Town Clerk Personnel Sub committee (if applicable)	0-5 years	Periodic review to ensure staffing structure meets business needs and requirements.	Weekly meetings of the Senior Leadership Team assess workloads and monitor performance to establish sufficient staffing levels. Relevant role evaluations are implemented, as required. Some job evaluations required after recent annual appraisals. Commencing in late May 2024. Evaluations have now been completed. On-going



Ensure adequate level of insurance for Town Council facilities and assets	Town Clerk RFO	0 – 5 years	Annual review of facility and asset insurance, together with public liability and indemnity will ensure the Council is adequately insured against claim, damage or obligation.	Regular reviews and stringent monitoring of claims and asset values assure sufficient cover is in place at all times. Best value quotes are sought at time of renewal. Renewal of insurance has now been approved for 3 years. On-going
Development of a Neighbourhood Plan	Planning Committee	0-2 years	The Town's Neighbourhood Plan is almost complete and is in preparation for consultation. The Neighbourhood Plan has given, and offers, further opportunities for residents to have a voice in the future of the Town for inclusion; this also portrays the importance of local needs and desires. Completion of the plan will also allow increased funding payable to the	Regular meetings have been held to progress the Neighbourhood Plan further and enquiries into drafting the plan ready for submittal to the District Council are imminent. Finalisation of the brief for the draft document was presented to Planning Committee in June 2024, and the tendering process will commence in August 2024.



			Council in regard to CIL monies from 15% to 25%.	
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PLANNING – Empowering community views and the development of our Town.

Ambition	Council Committee/ Department	Timescale	Success would be	Progress At: 25/07/24
Planning applications consideration	Planning Committee	0 – 5 years	Although the Town Council is not the planning authority, deliberation and the opportunity to provide local views and reflections is paramount. These permit the projection of	Applications are considered by the Planning Committee on the first Wednesday of every month. Meeting dates are published on the Town Council's website for attendance.



			the communities' thoughts, opinions and goals for what is being built, converted or situated in our Town.	An amendment to Section D, 4.3 of the planning delegation was approved and recommended at the Policy & Resources Committee meeting on 17 th July 2024.
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EVENTS – Building a sense of community spirit, social interaction and celebration of what is good in the Town.

Ambition	Council Committee/ Department	Timescale	Success would be	Progress At: 25/07/24
Introduction of Town Market	The Town Council	0 – 1 year	By introducing a Town market this will provide the capacity to revitalise the Town and act as a communal pillar fostering community spirit and	Funding approved to commence this event. A Market Management company has been engaged and preparations for the first market to be held in August 2024,



			produce a unique local business experience.	together with marketing the event are underway and progressing well. It is envisaged that expansion of the market will be on-going through promotion of the market to both residents and stall holders. On-going
Continual support of Remembrance Day and Armistice Day	The Town Council	0 – 5 years	The continuation and importance of these popular and well attended events which give the Town the opportunity to pay tribute to the people who made sacrifices in times of war, is paramount. Assistance in funding these events is an honourable, respectful and significant commitment of the Town Council and a provision for this and future generations.	The Town Council provide funding for both the Remembrance Day and Armistice Day events and have budgeted to do so for the forthcoming year. Amendments to the improvements to the War Memorial have been approved and are due to commence by summer 2024.



				On-going
To encourage community initiatives to use the Town's facilities to create events, festivals, fetes, exhibitions, pop-up businesses and groups	Amenities Committee IT, Communications & Marketing Group	0- 5 years	Provision of more events in the Town to promote improved wellbeing, social interaction and higher footfall to the Town area for businesses.	The Town Council annually license their land for events such as the Donkey Derby, Carnival, Fundays and sporting events. The Town Council will continue to make their land accessible for community events and consideration of all events are welcomed and supported wherever possible. The Donkey Derby has proven to be successful once again, as too was the Carnival. On-going
Create and manage an events page on the Town Council's website	IT, Communications & Marketing group. IT Officer	0 – 5 years	To attract larger numbers of people to support events within the Town and tackle social isolation.	Community events will be integrated onto our events page of the new website. This will improve awareness and promote involvement. This page is part of the expansion to the new website which



				<p>was launched in April 2024. Events are published on the new web site regularly.</p> <p>On-going</p>
<p>To assist and support the Twinning Association with the Town twinning of Tritttau in Germany and Communaute de Communes Loire Divatte in France.</p>	Town Council	0 – 5 years	<p>The Town Council wish to continue twinning with Tritttau in Germany and Communaute de Communes Loire Divatte in France to further enable the formation of cultural and social links. It recognises the importance of association between two similar communities which, through exchange visits, builds relationships and educates in regard to other traditional lifestyles.</p>	<p>On-going support for the Twinning Association will ensure the continuity of good relations and ties with Totton & Eling Town Council, Tritttau in Germany and Communaute de Communes Loire Divatte in France. A trip to Communaute de Communes Loire Divatte is planned for June 2024.</p> <p>On-going</p>
<p>FINANCIAL – Managing the Council’s finances through best value and transparency, thus successfully funding the resources needed to provide local public services.</p>				



Ambition	Council Committee/ Department	Timescale	Success would be	Progress At: 25/07/24
Continue to comply with legislation to ensure the provision of accurate accounts and records	Policy & Resources Committee Responsible Finance Officer	0 – 5 years	By ensuring the Council meet with advice from auditors, and operation within audit and statutory regulation, the provision of accurate, compliant and transparent accounts can continue to be produced.	The Council have financial regulations in place. Both internal and external audits are carried out on an annual basis. Weekly Senior Leadership Team meetings monitor accounts and assess budgetary conformance. Bi-monthly Policy & Resources meetings receive reports on actual figures against budget, accounts are published for transparency and continuation of all statutory and best practice procedures will remain. Internal audit has now been completed and Council approved in March 2024. Preparations



				have been instigated, on the external audit and this is expected to be completed by September 2024. On-going
Spending of £136,200 allocation of regeneration monies within timescale	Policy & Resources Committee Town Clerk Officers	0 – 1.5 years	The Council have been awarded £136,200 in Shared Prosperity Funding monies. This funding will give the Town Council the capability to progress the Town's regeneration and provide better social, economic and environmental facilities for the community.	Projects for these monies have been agreed by the Council and will be implemented by Officers in line with allocated budgets and time bound periods. Projects will be updated in the facilities section on this document, and moved to the achieved section when completed. Agreement for the monies has now been signed. Projects have been commenced and regularly monitored for progression and spend. On-going
Spending of earmarked and additional CIL monies with timescale	Policy & Resources Committee Town Clerk Officers	0 – 5 years 0 – 2 years	Responsibly deploying Community Infrastructure levy monies will establish and confirm prudent	A broad range of facilities are already supported by CIL monies. The Council have agreed, in principle,



			funding of improvements to facilities and areas of the Town identified in this plan.	future projects to be funded by earmarked CIL monies, and these are scheduled for delivery over the next 5 years. No additional CIL monies have been awarded for 2024. On-going
To continue to support local charity and voluntary support groups eligible for funding via the grant system	Policy & Resources Committee	0 – 5 years	Continuation of grant support to local groups and charities will enable existing and future support organisations to provide services to people in need of help in the Town.	The amended grants policy was approved in January 2024, and now gives organisations the opportunity to claim up to twice a year for a maximum of £3,000 per annum. On-going
Maintain adequate reserves	Policy & Resources Committee Town Council	0 – 5 years	Retention of adequate reserves, as advised by audit will ensure the Council remains financially buoyant, functional and able to	The Reserves policy was reviewed and recommended by the Policy & Resources Committee on 17 th July



			produce healthy accounts. Annual review of reserves monies will monitor and ensure correct reserves are kept.	2024, and passed by Full Council on 31.07.24 On-going
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CLIMATE & NATURE - Helping to create and maintain a sustainable carbon neutral environment

Ambition	Council Committee/ Department	Timescale	Success would be	Progress At: 25/07/24
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The Town Council aim to be carbon neutral by 2030	Climate & Nature Group Policy & Resources Committee	0 – 5 years	Monitoring of Council operations, recycling, and environmental improvements will help us to achieve our reduction in carbon footprint.	<p>A Climate and Nature action plan has been formulated and will be reviewed by the Climate & Nature Change Group regularly.</p> <p>The Town Council declared a Climate & Nature emergency and both Climate & Nature action plans were approved by Full Council on 31st January 2024. The plans will be updated on a bi-monthly basis by the Town Clerk and are available to view on the Council's website. The Great Collaboration Toolkit for residents and businesses is now linked to the Council's Climate change page shortly, to aid in addressing carbon reduction in the Town. Next meeting scheduled for August 2024.</p> <p>On-going</p>
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Reduction of energy and fuel consumption across Council facilities, operations and services.	Climate & Nature Group Policy & Resources Committee	0 – 5 years	By using green energy providers and the reduction of fuel in Council vehicles this will demonstrate a positive path towards a reduced carbon footprint.	All energy companies used by the Council offer reuseable energy. 3 Maintenance vehicles have now been replaced with electric vehicles. Staff have been given instruction on reduction of energy on day-to-day utilities use.
Reduce Waste, increase recycling, reduce disposal options etc	Climate & Nature Group Amenities Policy & Resources Committee	0 – 5 years	Working towards a reduction in all waste products, increased recycling and improvement of disposal options would assist towards the reduction of the Council's carbon footprint.t	The Council are looking at various alternatives to reduce waste including the reduction of single use plastics, avoidance of plastic packaging and utensils. On-going
To promote education with regard to biodiversity and create a re-wilding programme.	Climate & Nature Group Volunteers Amenities Committee Policy & Resources Committee	0 – 5 years	To promote biodiversity and the formulation of a re-wilding programme will assist in wildlife travel, enhancement and future development in the Town.	All Council green waste is environmentally disposed of via registered green waste routes and put back into the horticultural environment. Volunteer survey taking place for data and observation for



				inclusion in the wilding programme. Staff had attended nature recovery workshops. On-going
Maintain and protect current trees and increase Tree Planting in the Town	Climate & Nature Group Amenities Committee Policy & Resources Committee	0 – 5 years	Increasing provision in addition to the 17,000 trees presently owned and maintained by the Council will assist in the offset of carbon. Additionally, this will offer natural shade and shelter for residents and wildlife.	Regular tree inspections are carried out for both tree/property protection and carbon reduction. Successful bid to expand the Community Orchard at Bartley Park funded through HCC scheme was confirmed in February 2024. Funding for additional tree planting at Bartley park will also provide stabilisation for a bank area, and provision of a wildlife corridor. Planting of additional trees is complete. On-going
Reduction of pollution	Climate & Nature Group Amenities Committee	0 – 5 years	By using natural noise reduction screens, regular	The Town's infrastructure is being addressed.



	Policy & Resources Committee		litter picking and reduction in use of pesticides, the Council can assist in reducing pollution and the protection of nature in the Town and surrounding areas. Additionally, more cycling and walking facilities will assist in pollution reduction.	<p>Liaison with both the County and District Councils in regard to increasing accessibility for cycling or walking have commenced to discuss plans to decrease vehicle movement in the Town and thus aid in the reduction of pollution. Vehicle fleet policy approved March 2024 to enhance the Council's responsibility to carbon reduction.</p> <p>On-going</p>
Emergency Flood Plan Formulation	Climate & Nature Group Amenities Committee Policy & Resources Committee	0-2 years	Formulation of an Emergency Flood plan will assist residents and businesses in regard to available support and aid.	An Emergency Flood Plan is being formulated. Quick Win support is being implemented, where possible, through Flood Plan information packs to affected residents. Funding implementation investigation for further



				flood deterrent equipment and support is being sought. Through Council enquiry, steps are now being taken to provide additional protection for the sub-station at Eling to reduce the impact of flooding on electricity for residents.
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FACILITIES - Provide, and maintain accessible, inclusive and sustainable facilities to promote community enjoyment for all.

Ambition	Council Committee/ Department	Timescale	Success/benefit	Progress at: 25/07/24
Town Council to only implement facilities which it can adequately maintain	Amenities Committee Policy & Resources Committee	0 – 5 years	By making certain that adequate revenue monies are budgeted for each year, the Council's present and future facilities/assets will be maintained to a satisfactory and compliant level.	All facilities have regular inspection to ensure safety and enjoyment of use. Budgets are annually reviewed to ascertain sufficient maintenance funding. On-going



Mezzanine floor WTC	Amenities Committee Policy & Resources Committee Officers	0 – 1 year	Installation of a new mezzanine floor at WTC will allow for increased sporting facilitation, reduce manual handling for staff and enhance the Centre's amenities for the community.	This project commenced in December 2023, and it is anticipated that completion will be by September 2024.
Introduction of more inclusive play area equipment	Amenities Committee Policy & Resources Committee Officers	0 – 2 years	Inclusive play equipment aids the level of interaction in the playground and builds self-esteem and confidence due to the removal of restriction. This awards play opportunities for all children regardless of disability or background.	Funding has been earmarked for additional inclusive play equipment at several sites in and around the Town and will be installed over the next two years. On-going
Introduction of play equipment along the green route	Amenities Committee Policy & Resources Committee Officers	0 – 2 years	Placing play equipment along the green route will offer benefits to children by way of interacting with their environment, learning from nature and development through play.	Funding has been received for the introduction of play equipment along the green route to entertain and educate children on route to the Town Centre.



				<p>Designs for play equipment were approved for recommendation by the Full Council Committee on 31st July 2024.</p> <p>On-going</p>
Café in the Park	<p>Amenities Committee</p> <p>Policy & Resources Committee</p> <p>Officers</p>	0-1 year	<p>A café in the park will permit elevated use of the park area in the summer months, thus promoting community engagement and culinary enjoyment for both residents, workers and visitors to the Town.</p>	<p>This project has been approved by Council. Unfortunately, interest in this project has been disappointing. This project has now been postponed until next Summer. Funding was being utilised for the installation of an electricity supply to make the catering facility more viable.</p> <p>On-going</p>
Refurbishment of Town Park rockery & waterfall	<p>Amenities Committee</p> <p>Policy & Resources Committee</p> <p>Officers</p>	0 – 1.5 years	<p>Refurbishment of this popular feature will further expand on community relaxation and wellbeing and provide a</p>	<p>Funding has been approved for the refurbishment of both the rockery and pond area. Works are hopeful to</p>



			sustainable home for many species of wildlife.	commence by end of summer 2024. On-going
Elevation and improvements to the memorial	Amenities Committee Policy & Resources Committee Officers	0 – 1.5 years	The Town Council intend to improve this popular memorial area, which is used for either quiet contemplation and/or participation at the Armistice Day commemoration and Remembrance services. With the latter in mind, the Council plan to enhance this area making the services more accessible and visible to all the attendees for both events.	Funding has been approved, for the amended improvement works to the memorial. Estimated works will commence by end of Summer 2024. On-going
Introduction of performance area and human sundial in the Town Park	Amenities Committee Policy & Resources Committee Officers	0 – 1.5 years	The introduction of a performance area in the Town Park will allow summer arts and cultural events to take place and be enjoyed by all the community. Additionally,	Funding has been approved, in part, for the introduction of a performance area in the Town Park. The sundial design was approved for recommendation by the



			the area can be used as a human sundial providing entertainment, fun and learning for all generations.	Amenities Committee on 10 th July 2024. Works should commence by the end of Summer 2024.
'You are here' signage for the green route	Amenities Committee Policy & Resources Committee Officers	0 – 3 years	The green route offers great access for walking and cycling in and around the Town via a number of paths. It is felt that the area would benefit from on-the-ground route maps showing the various routes available for improvement of information, and maximum utilisation for public enjoyment.	Funding has been requested for this project, and it is anticipated that signs will be installed by June 2025, should financial aid be given. An additional scheme is being investigated for the signs provision and a workshop was held in July relating to plans. On-going
Eling recreation ground toilet refurbishment	Amenities Committee Policy & Resources Committee Officers	0 – 3 years	The toilets at the recreation ground are in need of repair and refurbishment. Funding has been applied for to carry out these works, and should we receive the necessary award, works will be hopefully be	Funding has been allocated from CIL monies for the Eling recreational ground toilets, and should be completed by May 2025. On-going



			completed in time for the summer season, when they are very much used in conjunction with the splash park and other recreational activities.	
Digital information system for Civic Centre	Amenities Committee Policy & Resources Committee Officers	0 – 1 year	Digital information provision at the Civic Centre will allow awareness of public services, an increase in transparency and a build in trust. This service will offer the public the ability to learn about community events, support groups and Council services available during visits to the Civic Centre.	Funding was not awarded for this project. Alternative funding routes are being sought. On-going
Town Map on the Civic Green	Amenities Committee Policy & Resources Committee Officers	0 - 1 year	An artistic and fun Town map will show opportunities to promote both recreational and keep-fit options, support local businesses/ attractions and improve vibrancy of the Town.	Funding was not awarded for this project. Alternative funding source is being assessed. On-going



Electric Charging points at Council facilities in the Town	Amenities Committee Policy & Resources Committee Officers	0 – 2 years	Funding has been requisitioned to provide electric charging points at the Town Council's facilities for the public's convenience. Additionally, this will help reduce the Council's carbon footprint thus addressing the Council's Climate emergency.	Funding was not given for this project. Alternative funding is being sought. On-going
Pétanque Court at Calmore Community Centre	Amenities Committee Policy & Resources Committee Officers	0 – 2 years	Funding has been applied for to provide a Pétanque court at Calmore Community Centre. The installation of this facility will promote community, interactivity, together with health and wellbeing benefits for people of all ages and abilities.	Funding for this project was not awarded. Other sources of funding are being investigated. On going
Continue with the provision of maintained open spaces and parks in the Town	Amenities Committee Policy & Resources Committee Officers	0 – 5 years	By continuing with the high standard of maintenance in the parks and open spaces, this will increase the opportunity for use of these areas and	Open spaces and parks are maintained via regular best value contracts. The Council will continue to maintain these areas to a satisfactory standard and



			encourage environmentally friendly composting and cutting waste removal.	in-keeping with the environmental area for community pleasure. On-going
Continue with the provision of two paddling pools and one splash park in the Town	Amenities Committee Policy & Resources Committee Officers	0 – 5 years	By proceeding with the delivery of all 3 water facilities in the Town, this will enable residents and visitors to utilise these very popular attributes throughout the summer months.	All water facilities are repaired and prepared annually prior to opening in May. During the season they are treated to meet safety regulation and kept in satisfactory useable condition, until closure in September of each year. The Council plan to continue with the provision of all three water facilities. On-going.
Town Park Play Equipment	Amenities Committee Policy & Resources Committee Officers	0 – 1.5 years	Introduction of play areas has a proven positive impact on children's physical, social and imaginative development. Further instigation of more play areas will enhance and increase availability of play for children in the Town.	Play areas are regularly inspected for safety and regulation purpose. The Town Council aim to continue the provision of its 24 play areas in the Town and play equipment is to be installed in the Town Park by March 2025. Designs were



				recommended for approval for the Town Park equipment at the Full Council meeting on 31st July 2024. On-going
Continued provision of allotments to meet local demand	Amenities Committee Policy & Resources Committee Officers	0 – 5 years	Continuing with the Town Council's delivery of allotments will allow residents to improve their recreational activity and grow their own food.	Allotment inspections are carried out on a regular basis to ensure adequate and appropriate use. The Town Council provide 369 allotment plots over 4 sites, and will proceed with the provision of allotments for community use. On-going
Continued provision of the Garage Youth Centre	Amenities Committee Policy & Resources Committee	0 - 5 years	Giving young adults and children the option to take part in recreational and cultural activities thus developing their social skills.	The Town Council have budgeted for the continued provision of Youth Services at the Garage Youth Centre for 2024/25. Bi-annual meetings are held with the provision organisation, and a presentation given to the



				Amenities committee on 10 th July 2024. On-going
Introduction and maintenance of community Notice Boards in the Town	Amenities Committee Policy & Resources Committee Officers	0-2 years	Providing new community notice boards in key locations throughout the Town will improve publicization of Town Council and community facilities/activities.	Funding has been awarded for additional notice boards to be installed in and around the Town. Designs for approval presented and agreed at Full Council meeting in July 2024; installation should commence by the end of Summer 2024. On-going
Continued provision of outdoor fitness equipment	Amenities Committee Policy & Resources Committee	0 -5 years	Continuance of these facilities assist in helping reduce stress and encourage healthy behaviours.	The Council is committed to the provision of outdoor fitness equipment to aid in public welfare. On-going
Introduction of bespoke Benches in the Town Park	Amenities Committee Policy & Resources Committee	0-1 year	The introduction of bespoke benches will give the town individualisation, and be unique to totton & Eling.	Designs for approval were given by the Full Council in July 2024. Estimated introduction is for September 2024. On-going
To introduce bespoke litter and dog bins in the	Amenities Committee	0 – 2 years	Improvement of bin provision in the Town will	Funding for this project was not awarded.



Town and surrounding area	Policy & Resources Committee Officers		help improve the Town's appearance, and environmental status. Locations of all bins will be shown on the new website when completed.	Alternative funding being sought. On-going
Sustain the provision of public toilets in the Town	Amenities Committee Policy & Resources Committee Officers	0 - 5 years	Continuity in the provision of toilets will provide clean and safe toilets for public use.	The Town Council have budgeted for the continued provision of public toilets in the Town, and strive to provide clean and satisfactorily maintained toilets for public use. On-going



ACHIEVEMENTS 2023 – 2024 (December 2023– December 2024)

Achievement	Details	Benefit to Community
Governance: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create Town Council Core Values	Following a management review, it was identified that the Town Council would benefit from the creation of Core values moving forward.	Setting of the Town Council's Core Values will allow the alignment of our policies, procedures and operations to these values. It will also provide an important base and guidance for improvements, and how we make our decisions. The Town Council's Core Values were approved by Full Council in November 2023, and incorporated into the 5-year strategic plan.



<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Create Town Council Mission Statement	<p>Following a management review, it was identified that the Town Council would benefit from the creation of a Mission Statement moving forward.</p>	<p>The creation of a Town Council Mission Statement will give the Council purpose, direction, future ambition and the ability to build on the connection between the people it represents and creating a holistic vision for the Town. The Town Council Mission Statement was approved by Full Council in November 2023, and has been incorporated in to 5-year strategic plan.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Create Town Council 5-year strategy plan	<p>The 5-year strategy plan will be a live document and thus will be amended on a weekly basis, with further updates provided by the Town Clerk via monthly Chair of Committee meetings, bi-monthly Full Council meetings, together with a monthly updated version placed onto the Council's website for public information.</p>	<p>Formulation of the 5-year strategy plan will, via a comprehensive framework, give the Council definition of operation, objectives and goals, which partnered with their Core Values and Mission Statement will allow clear awareness on the communities' needs, hopes and aspirations. The 5-year strategy plan was approved by Full Council in January 2024. Updating of this live document will demonstrate achievements and progression as and when they happen.</p>



Financial: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Successful completion of Internal Audit for 24/25	The internal audit was completed in February 2024.	The successful completion of the internal audit for 2024/25 showed no major discrepancies, and is part of the Council's continuation of transparency, statutory commitment and best practice financial procedures.
Policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of Grants Policy	In line with the Town Council's policy review schedule, this policy was renewed in January 2024.	<p>Uplifted and more defined procedure for applicants. Better funding feedback and monitoring with regard to grant spending for Town improvements and/or support.</p> <p>The reviewed grants awarding policy was approved by Full Council on 31st January 2024. The Council grant budget was recently increased from £8,000 to £10,000 in an effort to aid more support avenues.</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Formulation of Procurement Policy ● Formulation of a Vehicle Fleet Policy ● Biodiversity & Crime Statement formulation ● Review of Reserves Policy 	<p>This policy was formulated in March 2024.</p> <p>This policy was formulated in March 2024.</p> <p>This document was produced in March 2024.</p> <p>This document is reviewed annually.</p>	<p>The Procurement Policy was approved by Council in March 2024, and will assist in the process of ensuring, wherever possible, the procurement of goods and services from local suppliers based on best value.</p> <p>The Vehicle Fleet Policy was approved by Council in March 2024. This policy will support the Council's commitment to reducing the carbon footprint of the Town, by ensuring only environmentally friendly vehicle replacements, wherever possible, are procured moving forward.</p> <p>This document was approved by council in March 2024 and defines the Town Council's commitment to enhance biodiversity and address Crime and disorder. This will build on improvements for both nature and safety making the Town a better place to live, work and visit.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Holding an Event or Organised Activity on Town Council land Policy 	<p>This policy was formulated in July 2024.</p>	<p>The reserves policy was reviewed and recommended for approval at the Policy & Resources meeting on 17th July 2024 to ensure adequate reserves are kept.</p> <p>This policy was adopted by the Full Council Committee on 31st July 2024, and this will provide clarity for the procedure for holding organised events on Council owned land.</p>
<p>Facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Improvements to Eling Splash Park 	<p>This project was allocated funding, and Council approval was given in March 2024. Works are now completed on the Eling Splash pad.</p>	<p>This facility is very popular during the summer months, and completion of the improvements will allow the continuance of using this excellent community facility, providing the opportunity for public interaction and recreational enjoyment.</p>
<p>Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Annual Donkey Derby 	<p>A successful annual Donkey Derby took place in May 2024.</p>	<p>This is a popular, well organised event, is enjoyed by members of</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Annual Town Carnival	<p>The annual Town Carnival was held in June 2024.</p>	<p>the community, and in aid of the local scouts group.</p> <p>The annual Town Carnival for 2024 once again proved to be extremely well organised and popular with the residents and businesses of the Town; the event was very well supported and a great opportunity for community interaction.</p>
<p>Wellbeing and Health & Safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Health & Safety News Letter● Introduction of Sensory Walks at Eling	<p>Health & safety news letter is distributed to all employees on a monthly basis. Regular crime prevention information is now published on the Town Council's website.</p> <p>Walks now finalised, and are published on relevant websites and Totton & Eling Town Council website; all necessary documentation having now been completed.</p>	<p>Assisting in advising the public and staff on health & safety matters. Crime prevention information provides essential updates on safety, thus nurturing a feeling of security within the community.</p> <p>Introduction of these sensory walks will assist in addressing the lack of walks accessible to people with sensory disabilities.</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Flood packs for residents in flood areas ● Installation of three lockable ‘bleed kits’ at Calmore Community Centre, West Totton Centre and the Civic officers 	<p>Flood packs have now been organised for residents in flood prone areas of the Town.</p> <p>Three bleed kits were recommended and approved for installation at three Council facilities in Calmore, West Totton and the Town Centre.</p>	<p>Flood packs and flood information have now been made available, via hand delivered flood packs and a flood information page on the Town Council’s website. This will assist residents in flood prone areas in the prevention and protection of their properties against flooding.</p> <p>The bleed kits will assist in the saving of lives in emergency situations.</p>
<p>Planning:</p>	<p>An amendment to Section D, 4.3 of the planning delegation was approved and recommended at the Policy & Resources Committee meeting on 17th July 2024.</p>	<p>The adoption of this amendment will assist the Planning Officer in her duties in regard to related floor area expansion for delegated decision recommendation.</p>
<p>IT, Communications & Marketing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Design and development of new website and social media platforms 	<p>The Council identified the need for a new website in 2023 and after Council approval for funding work has been on-going for the formulation of that website. The new website has been produced to portray a more modern and easily navigational format, and will be a</p>	<p>A new and improved website that is compliant with legislation, and updated on a regular basis, will provide better</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Instigation of Totton & Eling town Council email for all Councillors ● Use of digital mapping 	<p>vital hub of information for links to support services, events, Council services and resident/business documentation.</p> <p>The usage of personal emails for Councillors has now ceased.</p> <p>Equipment has been obtained, and system is up and running. Expansion of the system will be on-going.</p>	<p>communication to the community via digital and visual social media. This will aid delivery of key information to the Town. The new Website was launched on 23rd April 2024, and is being expanded and updated on a regular basis.</p> <p>The introduction of corporate related Council emails addresses for Councillors has resulted in a more uniformed and secure avenue of contact.</p> <p>Utilisation of the NFDC's digital mapping system for improved and speedier land identification and subsequent public advice will create a more efficient and effective communication with the community and partnerships.</p>
<p>Nature & Environment:</p>	<p>Successful bid to expand the Community Orchard at Bartley Park funded through HCC scheme was received in February 2024. This will provide stabilisation for a bank area, and wildlife corridor. In total an additional 766 trees were</p>	<p>The planting of more trees in the Town will strengthen the Council's objective to address the reduction in their carbon footprint. Additionally, it will further enhance</p>



	planted in the last planting season, with assistance from volunteer groups.	the biodiversity of the Town and provide a more pleasant and natural environment for residents and visitors to enjoy.
Grants: The following grants have been awarded. PCC of the Ecclesiastical Benefice Friends of Bartley Park Totton Baby Bundles	Purchase craft materials and games for use in the Renew Café and the Pillar - £321.50 Purchase of wild play area materials. - £2000.00 On-going costs for the running of the baby support group. - £1000.00	



ACHIEVEMENTS 2022 - 2023

Achievement	Details	Benefit to Community
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<p>Governance:</p> <p>Election of new Town Council</p> <p>Successful election of new Council. Appointment of new Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for 2023/24.</p>	<p>Following the local elections in May 2023, 20 Councillors were elected as Totton & Eling Town Councillors, with the Liberal Democratic party in the majority by 13 to 7.</p>	<p>Continuance of elected Council for Community representation, Town decisions and assistance to the public.</p>
<p>Formulation of the following Sub Committees, and Task & Finish Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Personnel Sub Committee ● Wellbeing Group ● Garage Youth Centre Scrutiny Panel ● Climate & Nature Change Group ● Eling Experience Management Board ● Strategy & Vision Task & Finish Group ● IT, Communications & Marketing Task & Finish Group ● Eling Experience Task & Finish Group 	<p>The Committee groups were formed, with Members being appointed from the Town Council. Terms of reference for each Group/Committee were formulated and ratified by the Council.</p>	<p>Beneficial to the community by way of providing more focused interpretation of services, education and community inclusion. Regular meetings ensure recommendations and proposals are taken to Full Council for approval and actions are then procured from these.</p>
<p>Financial:</p> <p>Audit implementation</p>		<p>Assurance for residents that the Town Council are compliant with correct financial and audit</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful completion of both internal and external audits • Increased grant budget from £8,000 to £10,000 <p>Grant Funding</p> <p>Funded by way of grant the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Xmas lights electrical upgrade • Jubilee celebration events • Jubilee tree planting in the Town • Town Centre Flags • Planting of Jubilee orchard • Coronation parties & events • Remembrance/armistice events • Aid for support and advisory groups • Town Twinning collaboration • CAB facility in Totton 	<p>The Town Council successfully completed both internal and external audits with only minimal correction required.</p> <p>The Town Council funded, by granting monies for the electrical upgrade on the Town Centre roundabout for the Xmas lights, decorations and new trees.</p> <p>Various Jubilee and Coronation events were funded, providing enjoyment for the Community.</p> <p>Continued support was given to both the Remembrance and Armistice Day events.</p> <p>Continued support for the CAB in Totton assisted in the provision of this essential service.</p>	<p>procedures. Additionally, ensuring public monies are spent in line with regulation and provide value for money.</p> <p>Allowing the Xmas lights and decorations, organised by the Christmas voluntary group to continue safely and within relevant legislation.</p> <p>Allowing all generations to celebrate and commemorate these historical milestones.</p>
<p>Policy:</p> <p>The following Town Council policies were reviewed/formulated:</p>	<p>The listed policies were either reviewed or formulated within the stated period.</p>	<p>Having defined policies in place determines guidance and clarification to both Officers and the community, helping to resolve</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equality & Diversity policy • Recording at meetings policy • Members/Officers best practice • Councillors code of conduct • Risk Assessment policy • Climate & Nature emergency declaration • Management of records policy • Retention & Disposal Policy • Reserves policy • Vexatious Policy • Violence & Aggression Policy • Annual Leave Policy • Grants Policy 		<p>ambiguities and establishing best practice.</p> <p>Additionally, regular review of policies effectuates current legislation and statutory requirements are adhered to and legalised procedures are evident and utilised.</p>
<p>Facilities:</p> <p>The following Town Council facilities were instigated or refurbished:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defibrillators installation • Hanger Farm paddling pool • Town Benches • Notice Board • Bollard painting 	<p>External defibrillators were placed on the Totton & Eling Town Council Civic offices, the West Totton Centre and outside of a retail unit in Salisbury Road.</p> <p>Hanger Farm paddling pool received a new concrete base, safety surface, handrails and mechanical improvements.</p> <p>Bespoke Town Benches were placed around the memorial area depicting the Army, Navy and Airforce</p>	<p>External Defibrillators have increased availability to the community to help save lives.</p> <p>This popular pool has been given a new lease of life and has been made safer and more inclusive for all the community to enjoy during the summer months.</p> <p>Themed benches provided further</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 X outdoor gyms • Dog agility area • New play equipment • Garage Youth Centre 	<p>services. Town Council emblmed benches were installed around the Town Centre area.</p> <p>A new notice board was erected outside the Totton & Eling Community Association.</p> <p>Bollards placed around the memorial area were painted with poppy scenes.</p> <p>Provision of Garage Youth Centre to a charitable organisation who facilitate youth activities and support to young people in the Town.</p>	<p>tribute to those fallen in war.</p> <p>The new notice board has increased information available to the community, thus providing better access to activities and services.</p> <p>Painted bollards enhanced the experience of the memorial area.</p> <p>Continuation of a youth services provision has proven successful in the support of young persons pursuits and achievement.</p>
<p>Events:</p> <p>The following activities implemented by the Town Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree planting • Planting of an orchard 	<p>Tree planting to commemorate Queen Elizabeth 2nd's Jubilee was undertaken in recreational areas.</p> <p>An orchard was planted in commemoration of Queen Elizabeth the 2nd's Jubilee.</p>	<p>Would serve as a memory of, and be enjoyed by, this and future generations as a symbol of the Town's respect for both Queen Elizabeth 2nd and Kings Charles 3rd.</p>
<p>Human resources:</p>		<p>Beneficial to the Community as it has allowed the Town Council to</p>



<p>The following Staffing projects were implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review of Senior Management Structure ● Succession Plan Structure ● Appointment of a new Town Clerk ● Appointment of a new Deputy Town Clerk ● Appointment of a new Responsible Finance Officer ● Appointment of a new Head of Services ● Appointment of a new HR Officer ● Appointment of IT, Communications & Marketing Officer ● Appointment of a new Eling Experience Manager 	<p>A review of the Senior Management structure was undertaken by an external facilitator. From the review identification, a new management structure was introduced and an additional tier of management recruited.</p> <p>A new Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk were appointed, thus initiating a revised succession plan.</p>	<p>successfully implement improvements to services by way of more efficient decision-making processes.</p> <p>It has assisted in the day-to-day running of the Town Council to be better focused, more comprehensive in regard to responsibilities. Additionally, it has ensured we have the right personnel, with the correct skills and experience to upgrade and strengthen the services we provide, thus serving the community better.</p>
<p>Planning:</p> <p>The Town Council considered over 167 planning applications in 2022/23</p>	<p>The Town Council considered over 167 planning applications in the relevant period, which were inclusive of new housing developments, residential, commercial, highways, and some very controversial proposals.</p>	<p>Although it is the District Council who are the planning authority it is beneficial to the community to have their say via the Planning Committee which is made up of Councillors who live in the Town and are aware of implications any</p>



		particular application may have on the Town and its residents.
IT, Communications & Marketing: The Town Council are progressing with IT, Communications and Marketing projects as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete new Town Council Website • Digital mapping installation • Digital tree, play area and allotment inspections • Social media communications improvements 	<p>The Town Council have just commenced works on the design and execution of a completely new website. Digital mapping, enhancement of social media and digital inspection routes are being investigated for inclusion in assisting Council Officers with their duties.</p>	<p>The new Website will improve communication and on-line services for the Town. This will become a hub of information for the community to draw upon and with enhanced and improved social media, it will allow the Council to provide up to date information on their services, facilities and also provide links to other support organisations/groups in the area.</p>
Town Council Plans, Strategies and Schemes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Council Neighbourhood Plan • Core Values & Mission Statement • 5-year Town Council Strategy Plan • Town Centre Re-generation plan and programme • Discount Membership scheme for Eling Experience 	<p>The Town Council Neighbourhood Plan is in its final phase and the draft is being prepared for presentation to the District Council and for subsequent public consultation.</p> <p>The Town Council has formulated its Core Values and Mission Statement and is now in the process of formulating a 5-year strategy plan.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood plan gives the community opinion and direct power in regard to proposals for new build locations, commercial input, infrastructure and green spaces, thus developing a shared vision for the Town.</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIL money projects 	<p>A Eling Experience discount membership scheme has been launched for local residents.</p> <p>CIL monies have been awarded to the Town which can be spent on new and improved facilities and infrastructure, focusing on new developments.</p>	<p>The 5-year strategy plan, incorporating the Town Council's Core Values and Mission Statement will share with the community the Council's vision and action plan for Town improvements and progression. Updating of this live document will demonstrate achievements and progression as and when they happen.</p> <p>The Eling Experience discount scheme allows local residents to enjoy this almost unique heritage attraction again and again at a one-off price.</p> <p>CIL monies projects will add to and enhance the Town's facilities, providing enjoyment for all residents and visitors alike.</p>
Nature & Environment:		



<p>The following actions have been implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electric replacement of maintenance vehicles• Declaration of a climate & nature emergency• Hedgehog travel scheme• Understanding of Town council's present carbon footprint	<p>Electric maintenance vans were purchased by the Town Council as part of their climate change pledge to reduce the Town's carbon footprint.</p> <p>A climate and nature change emergency declaration was made by the town Council in September 2023.</p> <p>Assistance to provide a hedgehog highway scheme has been offered to residents free of charge by the Council via garden gateway frames, aiding in wildlife access and freedom of movement.</p> <p>The Council are aware of the present carbon footprint of the Town as of 2023.</p>	<p>Will assist in helping to reduce the Town's carbon footprint and protecting the environment for future generations.</p> <p>The declaration has allowed focus and importance to be highlighted in effecting climate and nature change prevention in the Town.</p> <p>Awareness of the present carbon footprint will allow identification for improvement and will provide objectives and ideas for its reduction.</p>
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This document is a live document and will be updated as and when changes happen.

This document will be reviewed in January 2029.

TOTTON & ELING TOWN COUNCIL