

ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA TOWN COUNCIL
OBJECTIVES FOR 2019/20

Royal Leamington Spa Town Council recognises the unique features of the Town and strives to maintain and improve it as an attractive place in which to live, work and visit. It is our aim to work hard for our thriving, lively and lovely Town.

Specifically we want:

- **To ensure that all Council expenditure is consistent with the objectives set out in this Statement.**

We will do this:

- through rigorously examining all applications for grants and funding;
- through a good working relationship between the auditor and the Responsible Financial Officer ; and
- by closely scrutinising all expenditure and income.

1. To develop collaborative working arrangements with Warwickshire County Council (WCC) and Warwick District Council (WDC), especially in relation to Town Centre development and planning in particularly deprived neighbourhoods.

We will do this:

- by working with the District Council Town Centre Management team to ensure the views of this Council are heard;
- through working with BID Leamington, the Royal Leamington Spa Chamber of Trade and other organisations such as the Leamington Society,
- by maintaining the special character of Leamington Town Centre as a place for residence, employment, tourism and recreation;
- by working with others as appropriate to keep a vibrant town centre;
- by taking pride in Leamington's parks and open spaces through working with WDC and voluntary organisations
- by closely monitoring any Creative Quarter action plan and any proposals for the buildings in the area.

2. To respond to WDC's Local Plan

We will do this:

- by finalising the Neighbourhood Plan
- by holding a successful referendum
- by then monitor planning decisions made by the District Council to ensure they comply with the plan.
- by drawing up an action plan for the delivery of the Neighbourhood Plan's objectives
- by considering carefully how to spend the Community Infrastructure Levy
- by producing a cycling / walking strategy
- by considering and compiling a list of potential Assets of Community Value in Leamington Spa to be submitted to the District Council for consideration
- by monitoring the progress and application of the Local Plan through planning applications received

3. To Promote the Rich Culture of Royal Leamington Spa

We will do this:

- through our support to music and the arts, both performing and visual;
- through our support to the Blue Plaque Scheme;
- by promoting cultural links and understanding through our Twin Town agreements and friendship links;
- by considering how the Town Council will work to promote the Commonwealth Games, Coventry's City of Culture and other cultural and sporting events in the town including how the history of Leamington can be promoted to visitors. To do this in partnership with local cultural organisations:
- by considering bringing back a 'Lights of Leamington' project to coincide with the City of Culture celebrations on a one-off basis working in partnership with Warwick District Council and other relevant organisations.

4. To promote equality for all, and particularly in the more socially deprived area in the Town.

We will do this:

- by working with WDC and WCC to ensure sufficient awareness of existing services such as one-stop shops, employment and training clubs and courses;
- by continued support of South Warwickshire Citizen's Advice and other third sector organisations;
- by promoting and encouraging community involvement in the cultural diversity of the town.;
- by supporting Warwick District Shopmobility, and advising on its long-term financial viability; and
- by encouraging the growth of business in Leamington.
- by promoting health and wellbeing to all our residents
- by working with partners to support youth work
- by reviewing the grants scheme criteria to make sure it is funding organisations that meet Town Council objectives, including evidence of environmental considerations
- by utilising the index of multiple deprivation for super output areas

5. To Improve the Environment.

We will do this:

- by setting up a working group which will report back within 6 months on the Climate Emergency
- by working to improve air quality by working with the District and County Councils
- by working to eliminate the use of single use plastics by the Town Council
- by working with Leamington in Bloom and the District Council to make the planting in the town more sustainable
- by working with appropriate partners to support and promote the 'refill' app to encourage the refilling of water bottles / use of refillable beverage cups
- by ensuring that Christmas lights are low energy and recyclable
- by investigating taking over 'green spaces' listed in the Neighbourhood Plan by exploring options with the District Council
- by encouraging 'Friends of' groups in our parks
- by encouraging and supporting pedestrians, users of public transport and cyclists;
- by seeking practical and economical alternatives to short car journeys,
- through our street tree planting programme;
- through our support for gardens and open space projects in Leamington Spa; and
- through our active support of Allotment Societies and those wishing to establish new allotment sites.

- by asking the allotments committee to look at introducing prizes for the best allotment in appropriate categories and to encourage biodiversity through encouraging the use of biodegradable weedkiller.

6. To raise awareness of the role of the Town Council.

We will do this:

- through the offices of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor;
- by engaging with the event management officers of WDC in planning events in Leamington, including officially acknowledging significant historical anniversaries;
- by supporting and promoting community initiative and voluntary action through our Culture and Community Committee;
- by motivating and managing our staff complement with best management practice and financial procedures.
- by regularly updating our website and social media presence, using them to publicise mayoral activities, and to promote projects, events and services we support or fund;
- by engaging with residents and other interested parties through direct contact and social media to ascertain their views;
- by maintaining a link with local press;
- by ensuring that our role as a funding partner is acknowledged by principal authorities in their publicity; and
- by working with WDC's Tourist Information service and Leamington BID to promote the Town to visitors including via accurate information signage .
- by using social media to inform residents re services and activities affecting the town
- by asking the Communications working group to look at the Council's social media and website and consider any improvements required, including a review and update of the Council's communications strategy

ACTION:

1. Once this document has been agreed, the appropriate council committees and working groups will be asked to look at the areas appropriate to them and draw up SMART objectives and an action plan.
2. This document will be reviewed annually

Revised by the Policy and Resources Committee – 9th September 2019