

Report to Council

2 April 2019

Report of Managing Director

Annual Business Plan 2019-20

1 Purpose of report

To seek the committee's approval of the 2019-20 Annual Business Plan.

2 Executive summary

2.1 In December 2017 this committee agreed the overarching Corporate Plan and the key priorities for inclusion in the Annual Business Plan 2018-19. In February 2018 this committee approved the final Annual Business Plan for 2018-19 based on those priorities. On 19 March 2019 a members briefing session reviewed the priorities for the 2019-20 Annual Business Plan.

2.2 This report now presents the Annual Business Plan for 2019-20 for members to approve, based on the identified priorities and the Corporate Plan.

3 Appendices

Appendix 1: Annual Business Plan 2019-20

4 Proposed action:

The committee is invited to:

4.1 RECOMMEND approval of the Annual Business Plan 2019-20.

5 Background

5.1 The December 2017 resources committee recommended to council the revised Corporate Plan, which was agreed at the council meeting of 16 January 2018.

5.2 To supplement this plan an Annual Business Plan for 2018-19 was produced, compiled from the priorities agreed by members at the same council meeting.

5.3 A members briefing session was held on 19 March 2019 to review the achievements of 2018-19 and agree the priorities and projects for 2019-20.

5.4 Based on the same priorities Appendix 1 shows the proposed Annual Plan for 2019-20.

6 Discussion

- 6.1 The proposed Annual Plan reflects the agreed priorities as discussed with members at the briefing session held on 19 March 2019. The senior management team (SMT) has also reviewed the plan, as they will be responsible for its delivery.
- 6.2 SMT will decide the best way to allocate resources to the projects outlined and whether any of the previous year's projects or priorities needed to be revised. All projects will be monitored by SMT and regularly reported to members via the appropriate committee.
- 6.3 It is likely, but not yet certain, that this may be the final year of this council if the Secretary of State decides to agree the proposal to create two unitary councils by April 2020 for Northamptonshire. The Annual Plan has been written as if this council were a continuing body past April 2020 and so may need to be refreshed in year if circumstances change.
- 6.4 Additionally if any new projects are identified in year these will be included in the committee reports. The capacity to deliver any new projects is very limited and will need to be considered carefully before any new projects are approved.
- 6.5 Members are asked to review and approve the attached draft Annual Plan 2019-20.
- 6.6 Once the wording and content have been agreed it will be formatted in corporate style, with appropriate illustrations, becoming a document to share with the local community to explain what the council intends to deliver in the coming year. There is no intention to print copies unless requested, but it will be readily available via the website. Officers will publicise this and signpost people to it.

7 Legal powers

The council is required by the Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000 to make arrangements for the discharge of its functions.

8 Financial and value for money implications

Effective management of urgent and important activities ensures value for money and optimum deployment of resources.

9 Risk analysis

Nature of risk	Consequences if realised	Likelihood of occurrence	Control measures
Targets not achieved	Improvements not delivered in time or to required quality	low	Regular scrutiny and review of the plan by leading officers and members

Targets not appropriate	Improvements not effective or appropriately targeted	Low	Targets set after consultation with members. Regular scrutiny and review of the plan by leading officers and members
Resources not deployed to match priorities described in the plan	Improvements not delivered in time or to required quality	Medium	Review of medium term financial strategy to be used to inform resource allocation. Plan to inform staffing structure
Failure to focus on the needs of the community	Inappropriate services provided Inefficient use of resources Adverse external audit and inspection reports Reputation damage	Low	Business planning and performance management arrangements. Account taken of feedback and service demand

10 Implications for resources

Delivery of benefits and outcomes detailed in the plan should lead to efficiencies and increase the likelihood of attracting resources from stakeholders.

11 Implications for stronger and safer communities

Delivery of benefits and outcomes detailed in the plan should increase the effectiveness of efforts aimed at forging safer and stronger communities.

12 Implications for equalities

Delivery of benefits and outcomes detailed in the plan should result in better outcomes for all people and communities served by the council. Any significant changes in policy will be the subject of consultation and impact assessments before they are put in place.

13 Author and contact officer

Liz Elliott Managing Director

14 Consultees

Senior Management Team

15 Background papers

Previous resources committee reports

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF WELLINGBOROUGH
ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN
2019-20

Foreword

Welcome to the Borough Council of Wellingborough's Annual Business Plan for 2019-20.

This plan will show the key activities and actions the council intends to undertake in 2019-20, linking to our overarching Corporate Plan, key objectives and overall mission to:

“Making Wellingborough a place to be proud of”

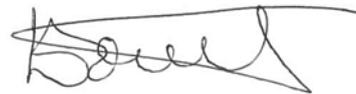
2019-20 will be a challenging year as we continue to face not only our own financial pressures but external pressures from changes to other organisations and the uncertainty of continued reductions in government funding and Brexit. We are also awaiting a decision from the Secretary of State on the future of local government in Northamptonshire, and if he chooses to implement unitary councils this may be the final year that the Borough Council of Wellingborough exists. However, this plan has been written on the assumption that the council will continue to be a sovereign entity in the future, and may require review if this situation changes in year.

We intend to continue to face these challenges head on and ensure that the resources of the council are focussed on delivering the best outcomes for our residents, whatever the future of the council may be.

The strategic leadership and direction of the council will aim to provide services our communities need that are value for money and are sustainable for the future.



Cllr M Griffiths
Leader of the Council



Mrs E Elliott
Managing Director

Outlook for the Borough Council of Wellingborough

Vision and corporate plan

Our vision is to continue to make Wellingborough a place we and our residents can be proud of. The corporate plan sets out the high level strategic goals to achieve this but this annual Business Plan detailed the actions and projects the council intends to undertake in 2019-20 to demonstrate it is delivering on this vision.

In 2019-20 we will again primarily concentrate on the regeneration of our town centre and its economy, as well as addressing the growing need for adequate and affordable housing in the borough.

Management actions

To achieve this ambitious vision we will:

- Continue to provide effective, value for money services, whilst maintaining a low council tax;
- Build on the newly implemented management team structure to ensure the right skills are available in the right places at the right time;
- Focus on delivering our key projects and financial resilience for the future;
- Adopt a robust, evidence based approach to projects and new initiatives, with a more commercial focus on return on investment where appropriate;
- Support elected members in their democratic role, both representing and leading local communities, as well as the council as a whole;
- Evaluate progress and report back regularly on how we are progressing against our performance and financial targets.

Management and reporting of performance

The overarching corporate plan, annual business plan, service action plans and individual performance targets demonstrate the links between the council's strategic ambitions and the work undertaken to deliver it. Performance management is an essential part of any plan and provides assurance and accountability, which demonstrates to our residents the achievements we have made.

We will report on financial performance regularly to the Resources committee. Other performance reports may be submitted on specific projects or initiatives to the relevant committees on an ad hoc basis.

About the Borough Council of Wellingborough

Introduction

Wellingborough is set in Northamptonshire's rolling countryside in the Nene Valley. It is surrounded by beauty and traditional charm, its picturesque villages, heritage trails and the International Waendel Walk attracting visitors from all over the world. It covers 163 sq. km, has 19 villages, 18 parishes and a population of approximately 76,400, with about 65% living in the urban town area.

The town is served by a high proportion of local, independent retailers, which gives it a distinctive feel. Work has recently been undertaken to restore some of the traditional shop fronts to their former glory. This initiative will continue in 2019-20, hoping to maintain some of the heritage and culture of the town, whilst also increasing its attractiveness to shoppers.

The historic core of the town will serve the whole borough with a diversified retail, leisure and heritage offer.

The council is committed to the sustainable growth of the borough and to working with its partners in the private, public and voluntary sectors to maximise every opportunity.

Connectivity

The Borough Council of Wellingborough is set in the heart of the Midlands and has some of the best connections to the rest of the UK compared with any other town. A regular mainline rail service links Wellingborough to London St Pancras in under an hour. This also provides wider connectivity to other parts of the UK and Europe – *get the 7.30am train from Wellingborough and you could be in Paris for lunch!*

The road networks provide fast and easy access to the A45, A14, M1 and the A1/M11. Luton, Birmingham and East Midland airports are all within a 60 mile radius, with Heathrow and Stansted just a little further at 70 miles.

Growth and housing

The borough of Wellingborough is expanding fast. Approximately 9300 business, industrial and distribution jobs are expected to be created by 2031: 5300 in Stanton Cross to the east of the town, along with 3650 homes, and 670 jobs and a further 3000 homes at Glenvale Park to the north. The new business park at Appleby Lodge is now operational and set to create even more jobs later in the year. The Prologis site on the A45 is set to expand further as new businesses are attracted to our area.

The old prison site on Doddington Road is due to re-open as a brand new modern prison facility, which will add approx. 800 more jobs and have a significant impact on the borough's economy. The demolition of the old prison is complete and as part of the construction phase there will be an emphasis on apprenticeships and skills building. A number of apprentices have already been engaged as part of the demolition stage. Once completed the prison will add a significant amount to the local economy, helping the town and surrounding areas business growth.

Wellingborough has homes to suit all tastes and budgets. There are over 33,000 dwellings in the borough, most of which (66%) are owner occupied and the balance being rented properties (14% private rented and 18% registered provider landlords).

The borough has 2 main large urban extensions that will deliver over 7000 new houses over the longer term. We have already seen other growth outside of these main sites and between 2011 and 2018 1778 new homes were built (1282 built in the town and 496 in the rural areas) . The plans to grow the town have been planned carefully in well-designed mixed tenure communities that put families and residents first.

There is a growing need for rented housing and currently there are 566 households on the council's waiting list for social rented housing. As non-stock holders we are reliant on the other social landlords for the supply of housing to meet these needs. Officers have been working with Wellingborough Homes primarily, but also other registered providers, to try and find joint solutions to increase the level of housing stock available that meets the needs of our residents.

The lack of social and affordable housing not only impacts on the level of people waiting to be housed, it also impacts on the level of people that are housed temporarily when they become homeless. Currently we have 57 households in temporary accommodation, a significant reduction since this time last year of 104 placed in either hotels or self contained furnished nightly paid accommodation provided by private landlords.

The council will continue to work closely with Wellingborough Homes, and other social landlords, to accelerate the development of affordable homes sites. A new development of 45 new affordable and shared ownership homes is near completion and further new sites will be developed through the coming year, adding over 70 more new units. Most of these have been made possible through the council disposing of land for redevelopment.

We are seeing significant demand pressures from increases in homelessness applications and this has had a drastic effect on the councils revenue budget, as it is required to provide temporary accommodation or help to find alternative accommodation to prevent homelessness. In 2018-19 the council purchased a number of houses to provide for the temporary accommodation needs. This need, whilst being managed, will continue into the future. This is why in 2019-20 the borough council will be actively progressing its solutions to address the growing need for more affordable and social rented properties in the borough. It will continue to work with key housing partners as well as delivering its own assets to provide this much needed additional housing.

Education and Skills

The borough is served well by schools, with most villages retaining their own primary schools. There are 4 secondary academies serving the borough; one of which is viewed as outstanding and ranks in the top schools for Northamptonshire as a whole for achievements.

There is also an independent day school, Wellingborough School, which was founded in 1595 and is one of the oldest schools in the county.

Tresham College – a long standing provider of further education - has a development site within the town centre, which is now owned by Bedford College. This site is undergoing a redesign and planning permission has been granted. It is planned to open again in the autumn of 2020 to receive students, providing a well needed further education site for not only the borough but neighbouring districts too.

The council will look to work with its local businesses to address the skills and employment issues through out the borough, with an aim of trying to achieve more inward investment and economic activity to promote regeneration and increase productivity.

Financial outlook (and future of local government)

Public services in the UK face unprecedented challenges. National and international politics and economics have affected the public sector at all levels, as well as our local residents, communities and businesses.

The next few years will see significant changes to the UK economy. The relationship with Europe, as Brexit continues to be negotiated, casts uncertainty on what the impact of this decision will be; both positive and negative.

All local authorities will have to continue to drive out further efficiencies and look for other sustainable alternative income streams as government funding reduces further. This may prompt further changes in governance structures and devolution bids for government to consider. This is already happening in Northamptonshire with the proposal for Local Government Reform awaiting a decision from the Secretary of State.

For the Borough Council of Wellingborough the financial challenges continue. There is still an underlying funding deficit on the revenue budget which has, for a number of years, been met by using reserves.

The increasing cost of homelessness duties and housing pressures is now beginning to have a detrimental effect on the level of reserves the council holds. The reserves are depleting at an increasing rate and so the importance of finding efficiencies in service delivery costs and increasing alternative income streams is more important than ever.

Key projects and activities for 2019-20

This business plan is supplementary to the council's corporate plan; it builds on the council's achievements to date and reflects the current thinking on key projects and actions to be undertaken in the short term. Everything we do will be linked to the overarching corporate priorities, tying all resources back to their delivery.

We have already undertaken significant amount of work on the projects agreed in 2018-19, and these projects will continue to be delivered in 2019-20. A full list of these can be found at Annex 1, and progress against them is regularly reported to the Resources Committee.

In addition to these projects and delivering the usual borough council services, such as planning applications, benefits application, housing allocations and collecting refuse, the council has also achieved a vast number of other activities. A sample of these is shown at Annex 2. With a very small number of staff (approx. 120 FTE) the council has delivered a great deal for the residents of its borough.

Whilst the future past 2020 is still uncertain on the governance structure of local authorities, this council will continue to work hard for its residents, within the limited resources available, to maximise the outputs for 2019-20. The additional resources needed to address the likely changes if the proposal for 2 unitary councils in Northamptonshire is agreed will have an impact on both how we deliver our ambition and prioritise our resources.

Wellingborough will also see the creation of a town council, with a shadow council being convened to discuss and consider the options for services it can deliver to its residents. This will ensure that the people of the town, like their fellow residents in the villages and surrounding

parishes, have representation at a local level and can deliver services they feel are relevant to their location. Elections to this new town council are currently planned for May 2020.

Despite all the uncertainty and potential changes we face in 2019-20 we would like to:

- make the borough more prosperous, safe and secure for the future
- keep the town and surrounding area vibrant and viable
- make the council services sustainable in the face of future challenges and changes
- use our assets to their best advantage for the council and the communities it serves
- reflect the needs of our diverse communities in the services we deliver
- Focus on delivering the most we can in year, whilst taking account of capacity in the availability of human and financial resources in their delivery

The 2019-20 key priorities and projects will focus on:

- Using the council's assets, including its capital reserves, to generate greater income and where possible as a catalyst for wider town centre regeneration
- Implementing our plan to ensure the town centre is sustainable now and for the future and is both a commercial and cultural focus point for our borough
- Proactively deliver a range of housing types and tenures by working with others to encourage house building; and by exploring options to build or develop our own assets as housing solutions
- Provide services that are value for money and meet the needs of our residents

Longer term plans

In addition, our local plan ([The Plan for the Borough of Wellingborough](#)) details the longer term needs of our area. This plan has now been adopted and sets out how the borough's growth and prosperity on such areas as housing, infrastructure, employment and education and skills will be delivered up to 2031.

This is a longer term ambition for the borough which is reflected in the council's corporate plan.

How will we do this ?

The council will ensure that it has strong strategic leadership

- With a clear vision and plan in place
- With both members and staff who have the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed to deliver that plan, taking tough decisions where needed
- With effective governance in place to provide accountability and transparent informed decision making

The council will focus on local engagement and community leadership

- It will ensure local businesses and communities are consulted upon where necessary, and where appropriate engaged in, the processes and services we deliver
- Focus will be on the reputation of the council and the satisfaction of its residents

The council will monitor its performance and take necessary actions to

- Deliver services to meet the need of its residents to the best quality it can, protecting the vulnerable and improving services where possible
- Ensure services are value for money
- Ensure resources are prioritised as needed to deliver its plans

Borough Council of Wellingborough Project Register Property and Projects - Business as usual

No.	Project Name	Priority	Summary	Project Manager	Latest update
PPBAU005	Town Centre Strategy	Medium	Identifying a strategy to move forward town centre projects.	Victoria Phillipson, Property and Projects Manager	28.02.2019 - Feasibility works being undertaken to identify what work could be progressed, these will be brought back to the appropriate Committee/Sub-Committee as necessary.
PPBAU007	Asset strategy	Medium	To cover disposal and acquisition.	Adrian Piper, Assistant Director	28.02.2019 - Whilst further disposal/acquisition is not ruled out, should any additional properties be identified there would need to be a sound business case which supports the council's objectives and provides value for money before any action could be taken.
PPBAU015	Council owned assets	Medium	Identify properties to become projects.	Adrian Piper, Assistant Director	28.02.2019 - Further work is being carried out to assess the viability of attracting external funding, to match fund council investment in council owned property in the town centre.
PPBAU001	Stanton Cross	Ongoing	Progress delivery with Development Management	Victoria Phillipson, Property and Projects Manager	28.02.2019 - Monthly meetings being held to provide updates and address any issues.
PPBAU002	Tresham	Ongoing	Maximise the opportunities for skills and regeneration	Victoria Phillipson, Property and Projects Manager	28.02.2019 - Officers are working with Tresham to maximise the opportunities available, including public realm.
PPBAU003	Wellingborough Prison	Ongoing	Maximise the opportunities for skills and economic development.	James Murray, Economic Development and Deliver Officer	28.02.2019 - Ongoing discussions on how to work with the local community/economy and construction skills training.
PPBAU004	External Funding	Ongoing	Support the submission of bids	James Murray, Economic Development and Deliver Officer	28.02.2019 - Consultants providing support to develop a bid for the Future High Streets fund.
PPBAU006	Castle car parking	Ongoing	Identification of possible options	Marsha Allen, Technical Officer	28.02.2019 - Proposals to be sought for improvements that could be achieved with £20k S106 during allocated to the Castle car park.
PPBAU008	Commercial Property Management	Ongoing	Tender for management of the commercial property.	Adrian Piper, Assistant Director	28.02.2019 - Tender documents being finalised to allow procurement as soon as possible.
PPBAU010	Road adoptions and brooks	Ongoing	Review our ownership, health and safety reviews and progress any upgrades necessary.	Marsha Allen, Technical Officer	28.02.2019 - Annual review of brooks to be undertaken shortly, the ownership of roads information is being updated and street lights being addressed under capital project.
PPBAU013	Growth Deal	Ongoing	Submission of information into the North Northamptonshire Growth Deal bid.	Victoria Phillipson/Martyn Swann	28.02.2019 - Investment Framework has been drafted by Nathaniel Litchfield, and discussed at workshops with members by the Joint Planning and Delivery Unit.
PPBAU014	Investment Brochure	Ongoing	Develop an Investment brochure for Wellingborough	James Murray, Economic Development and Deliver Officer	28.02.2019 - A draft brochure and action plan of how this will link to overall investment are being developed.
PPBAU017	Business Newsletter	Ongoing	Develop and circulate a newsletter for businesses providing information and links to support them.	James Murray, Economic Development and Deliver Officer	28.02.2019 - Newsletter produced to go out with Business rates and be available on our website. Further work being done on the Enterprising Wellingborough initiative, which in future will link with business database, website, social media and events.
PPBAU016	Office space review	On hold	Consider options for relocation of staff.	Paul Burnett, Project Manager	28.02.2019 - Further work to be done once the future of the Tithe Barn Road offices is identified.

Borough Council of Wellingborough Project Register Property and Projects - Current Projects

No. (Capital budget code)	Project Name	Priority	Summary	Project Manager/s	Project/stage end date	Project status (R/A/G)	Latest update - February 2019
PP003 (J122)	Street Furniture & Market	Expedite	Relocation, refurbishment and promotion of the market including repair of the mosaics.	Denise York, Project Co-ordinator	Oct-19	G	28.02.2019 - Options are being considered regarding improvement of infrastructure for the relocated market including sourcing quotes. Contractor sourced for mosaic repair works - dates to be confirmed.
PP004	Mosaics	Expedite	Considering and implementing options for the Mosaics.	Denise York, Project Co-ordinator	Oct-19	G	28.02.2019 - Options are being considered regarding improvement of infrastructure for the relocated market including sourcing quotes. Contractor sourced for mosaic repair works - dates to be confirmed.
PP005 (J148)	Allotment Improvements	Expedite	Improvements to fencing and access	Denise York, Project Co-ordinator	Mar-19	G	28.02.2019 - Last grants payments approved at Resources Committee, paperwork being completed.
PP009	3G Pitch	Expedite	Delivery of a 3G pitch at Redwell Leisure Centre	Victoria Phillipson Property and Projects Manager & Denise York, Project Co-ordinator	Oct-19	G	28.02.2019 - Planning application approved and FF funding granted. Condition discharge being progressed to allow start on site as soon as possible, date to be confirmed.
PP010	Croyland Road development site (former swimming pool)	Expedite	Disposal of site with planning permission.	Adrian Piper, Assistant Director & Underwoods	Sep-19	A	28.02.2019 - Planning permission granted. The site is filled leading to abnormal foundation costs. Discussions with bidder ongoing.
PP012	Drill Hall - disposal	Expedite	Disposal of site.	Adrian Piper, Assistant Director & Underwoods	Sep-19	A	28.02.2019 - Timber treatment and removal complete. Preferred bidder has re-submitted a bid and now seeking pre-application planning advice.
PP014	Crematorium	Expedite	Atrium installation	Paul Burnett, Project Manager	Aug-19	A	28.02.2019 - The construction of the atrium skylight is being discussed further to ensure it is appropriate.
PP018	43/44 High Street	Expedite	Bringing back first floor into use.	Paul Burnett, Project Manager	Sep-19	A	28.02.2019 - Planning permission granted.
PP021	20 Sheep Street - disposal	Expedite	Disposal of site with planning permission.	Adrian Piper, Assistant Director & Underwoods	Dec-19	G	28.02.2019 - Following the decision of the committee to dispose of this property, architects are preparing documents to submit a planning application prior to disposal.
PP024	Retail improvements - shop fronts	Expedite	Providing grants for shop fronts.	James Murray, Economic Development and Delivery Officer	Mar-21	G	28.02.2019 - The project paperwork and the process for this grant are currently being developed for launch as soon as possible. Funding will be available until March 2021.
PP026	Street Lighting replacement	Expedite	Replacement of bulbs in BCW owned street lights.	Marsha Allen, Technical Officer	Mar-20	G	28.02.2019 - Funding approved to allow consultants to be procured which will confirm timescales, costs and clarify any unforeseen elements.
PP001 J037	Redhill Farm - Roads & Sewers	High	Get unadopted roads, sewers and cycle ways adopted.	Victoria Phillipson, Property and Projects Manager	Jun-19	A	28.02.2019 - Some further works will be needed by KierWSP, S38 and sewer adoptions agreements progressing with District Law and LGSS.
PP002 (J100 & J151)	Wellingborough Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI)	High	To provide grant funding to critical/key buildings, shop fronts and other buildings in the Town Centre for restoration and refurbishment.	John Udall, THI Project Manager	Feb-20	G	28.02.2019 - The Hind Hotel scheme will be started shortly, this works are estimated to continue to early 2020 and are being monitored with HLF. Other works need to be completed by October 2019 and is progressing on working up proposals for BCW owned properties including the Tithe Barn and other privately owned shop fronts.
PP007	High Street Developer Procurement	High	To procure a developer for the High Street/Jacksons Lane site.	Victoria Phillipson, Property and Projects Manager	Jul-19	A	28.02.2019 - Planning approved at Committee subject to completion of a S106. Discussions progressing to allow a report to Council.
PP027	Wellingborough Homes land rationalisation	High	Agreement to sell land	Paul Burnett, Project Manager	Jun-19	A	28.02.2019 - Valuations completed and solicitors instructed to complete this transaction. Milner Road and Penrith Drive sites now transferred. First stage of this work to be completed by the end of March 2019 when the further timescales will be identified.
PP015	Multi-storey car park	High	Work to refurbish car park.	Project Manager	Sep-20	G	28.02.2019 - Funding approved to allow consultants to be procured which will confirm timescales, costs and clarify any unforeseen elements.
PP006 (J153 & J143)	Bassett's Park Skate Park and Bassett's Close S106	Medium	Skate park facilities and other related facilities.	Raj Gill, Project Co-ordinator	Mar-20	A	28.02.2019 - A good level of interest received so community engagement plans are progressing.
PP008	Tithe Barn - Public Realm	Medium	Open Space outside the Tithe Barn	Denise York & Raj Gill, Project Co-ordinators	Nov-19	G	28.02.2019 - Feasibility study to be procured to apply for THI funding this will confirm timescales, costs and clarify any unforeseen elements.
PP028	Stanton Cross Community Centre	Medium	Consider options to deliver a community centre on Stanton Cross	Victoria Phillipson, Property and Projects Manager	Ongoing	G	28.02.2019 - Discussion had with scouts and Northants Carers. Pick Everards have been procured to consider the design and feasibility of such a facility.
PP011	Doddington Road development site	Medium	Consider options for the site.	Adrian Piper, Assistant Director	On hold	F	28.02.2019 - Outline planning consent has been granted for residential development. Further work is needed to consider this alongside the Tithe Barn Road offices and will be brought forward to Committee as necessary.
PP013	Tithe Barn Road offices - options	Medium	Consider options for the site	Paul Burnett, Project Manager	On hold	F	28.02.2019 - Feasibility study completed, further consideration of how to progress with this alongside the Doddington Road site. A report will be brought to committee at the appropriate time.
PP0019	BCW owned properties - flats over shops	Medium	Bringing flats back into use.	Dewa Hopson, Estates Officer & Underwoods	Dec-19	G	28.02.2019 - Costs have been received and these are being considered.
PP020	Digital High Street	Medium	Identifying and implementing the options for the WDYT campaign and other schemes to improve the digital presence in the town centre.	James Murray, Economic Development and Delivery Officer	Oct-19	G	28.02.2019 - A number of options are being researched and being discussed with the Chamber of Commerce.
PP022	London Road chapels - disposal	Medium	Disposal of site.	Adrian Piper, Assistant Director, Estates Officer & Underwoods	Dec-19	G	28.02.2019 - Review of the current position needed.
Key							
R	Project not started/at significant risk of non-delivery						
A	Project on hold/at slight risk of non-delivery or delay						
G	Project in progress and on target						
F	Project on hold						

2018-19 achievements as sent to members Jan 2019

- Closed the accounts within the new tighter statutory deadlines, despite having significantly reduced resources in the team.
- Adopted a new corporate plan and business plan for 2018-19.
- Reviewed and implemented a new members' allowance scheme.
- Investigated and closed 100 planning enforcement cases.
- Secured a business rates pilot with our fellow Northamptonshire councils.
- Funding secured for Tresham redevelopment - we used our influence with SEMLEP to keep it in our area, all the money nearly went outside the borough.
- Received £1m from Rushden Lakes to spend on our town centre.
- Town centre and local government reorganisation sub-committees set up with first meetings held to discuss the regeneration of the town centre.
- Outline consent granted for 600 houses of Park Farm Way of which 180 (30%) are affordable.
- Participated in enforcement 'Day of action' with the police. Targeting compliance with the PSPO, licensing policies, smoke free requirements, and dog control provisions raising the visibility of enforcement.
- Produced an anti-social behaviour enforcement strategy and introduced anti-social behaviour enforcement officers increasing enforcement across the borough.
- Maintained the level of food businesses that are compliant with food safety legislation at 96% and continued to meet Food Standards Agency inspection targets for high risk premises and took appropriate enforcement action for environmental health issues, including an emergency formal closure of a business in December with seizure of food and service of a number of enforcement notices.
- Trained all staff in emergency planning roles, improving the resilience of the council in an emergency situation.
- Successfully defended two taxi licensing appeal hearings.
- Implementation of new Animal Licensing regime in October, resulting in considerable changes in the licensing regime.
- Ongoing significant multi-agency working with police and others to tackle a specific issue with crime in a specific area of the town centre.
- Achieved gold status for the land and property gazetteer.
- 100% of local searches completed within 4 working days.
- We received 117 planning enforcement complaints in 2018 and 81 have been completed/closed without the need for formal action and the remainder are ongoing investigations.
- Only six of BCW planning 751 decisions were overturned by the inspector in 2018 – a new low in recent times. This places quality of decisions at 99.2% which is higher than national good practice of 90%.
- BCW's five-year land supply stood at 7.47 years at the 2018 count – almost 50% higher than required.
- We've more than doubled our pre-planning application advice service business following increase in quality and timeliness of advice given.
- Stanton Cross residential development – on site and first houses built with first residents in before Christmas.
- Wellingborough North residential development – S106 planning agreement completed, land sold to developer and infrastructure works started.
- Plan for the Borough of Wellingborough – examination ended and judged by the inspector to be capable of adoption, subject to the main modifications included in his report.
- High St residential scheme – planning consent obtained.
- Wellingborough Prison – planning consent obtained and construction work started on the new prison.
- Tresham College – council agreed to lease a vacant, listed building (Croyland Hall) to the college as a temporary teaching base while they invest in permanent facilities in the town centre. Significant investment made to improve the building and students are now in site.

- New programme to purchase temporary accommodation, 8 properties in the programme - 2 now let with Corby Borough Council as managing agents. Four properties purchased and the first family moved in for Christmas – numbers in TA (76) as @ 21/12/18 – lowest since June 2017.
- Surplus council owned land – planning consent obtained for residential development on land at Doddington Road (car park) and Croyland Road (site of former swimming pool); terms agreed for sale of the Croyland Road site.
- Town Centre THI scheme – 6 shop front projects completed and 2 shop signs re-painted; Refurbishments of the Pagoda and Queens Hall completed; Zoo Park entrance sign and 6 new information boards installed; Hind Hotel project approved in the last month of 2018.
- Leisure/sports facilities – Planning consent obtained and funding secured for a new 3G pitch at Redwell Leisure Centre; work started on improvements to facilities at Waendel Leisure Centre for the benefit of customers.
- Theatre – Tendered for and awarded a management contract for the Castle, plus substantial capital investment to facilities at the theatre, in support of the new operating contract which started on 8th January this year.
- Property and Projects team – restructure completed and the majority of the team now in post, to deliver priority projects to improve the town centre, deliver housing and wider physical and economic regeneration benefits to Wellingborough.
- Community Asset Transfer policy – developed and approved by the council.
- Restructure of the Planning Service – performance now 100% on major and minor applications.
- Alignment of management - functional review (Place and Strategic Growth) Business case prepared and agreed Nov 18. Staff consulted Dec 18 and trial starts Jan 19 for six months (Community support from 'People' to 'Place'). Private sector housing and health and wellbeing to environmental health.
- Housing Plan adopted.
- Housing Options committee paper on performance, resilience and capacity - additional staff resources agreed to reduce demands and costs.
- New programme to purchase temporary accommodation, 8 properties in the programme - 2 now let with Corby Borough Council as managing agents. – numbers in TA (76) @ 21/12/18 – lowest since June 2017.
- Spend to save homeless prevention initiatives implemented - grants to landlords and early help/crisis loans.
- Enforcement - HMO new legislation implemented and administration service placed in CAU.
- DFG - Member agreement to bring back in house; on target for 1 April 2019 from Spire Homes.
- Reviewed street trading provisions to update the licensing regime and co-ordinate licensing activity across the council, new policies and environmental strategy approved with new community enforcement officers appointed.
- Building control technical management by ENC on-going with anticipated start date January 2019.
- Planning Fees and pre app charges - reviewed to be implemented April 2019.
- Allocations Policy - changed criteria for people who are placed in Band A are made to auto bid - to reduce placements in B&B and assist with discharge of duty.
- Homes England and Registered Provider Directors - development meetings – resulting in new business from Grand Union.
- Warm Homes bid - joint with county LA's to provide gas supply to homes just on electric.
- Homeless bids - Private sector access funding, expression of interest for mental health pathways (North Council's) and bid for Rough Sleeping Initiative.
- County domestic abuse bid to MHCLG.
- Land aid bid – refurbishing council property above shops - jointly with Amicus.
- Land at Gillets Road - potential to purchase a block of shared flats - for conversion to self-contained temporary accommodation – subject to contract and member approval.
- New affordable homes – 186 in the pipeline to be delivered in 2018/19 and 2019/20.
- Progressed collaborative working with ENC for Revenues and Benefits, Democratic Services, Electoral Services, Local Land Charges, Building Control, Planning Admin.
- Successful appointment of Comms Officer with ENC – working very well.

- Successful First Tier Tribunal defence in FOI case.
- World War 1 Centenary events.
- Adopted a revised Constitution.
- Implemented a new telephone system.
- Delivered a number of successful events – Waendel Walk, Party in the Park, the Beach, Christmas Lights.
- Showcased the work we do by taking part in social media campaign “Our Day”.

