

# REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN



<b>Report Reference</b>	C-21-22
<b>Meeting Date</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> November 2021
<b>Agenda Item</b>	11
<b>Prepared by</b>	Town Clerk

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## 1.0 BACKGROUND

In June 2019, the council established a working group to lead on production of a new strategic plan to last to 2031. The early stage of the plan production was to undertake community workshops to identify the issues the community feels the town will face, its suggestions on how to tackle them and to identify areas the community feels need attention.

The initial project timeline was amended in November 2019 due to a delay caused by staff absence. The working group planned to undertake community workshops in early 2020 but these were delayed by the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic when the workstream was placed on hold.

In March 2021, Council resolved to defer consideration of progression of the new strategic plan for six months. The working group<sup>1</sup> met in October to agree a recommendation to the November council meeting.

## 2.0 PROPOSED PROCESS

The working group reviewed the previously agreed process for developing a new strategic plan and agreed that it continues to be the best way to progress the plan. Under this process the council would host a number of community engagement workshops to foster a discussion with the community on the work of the town council, discussing issues affecting the town and areas where the council should work to preserve, improve or leave alone; alongside this would be an open call for comment where members of the public and community organisations can submit comments and suggestions.

The working group consider that the workshops should primarily be held in person as previously agreed; this would include evening, weekend and daytime workshops in the town centre, a workshop at the Welcome and a workshop with students at the Knutsford Academy. In addition, the working group would explore hosting a virtual workshop too. The council would publish an overview presentation video which could be viewed by anyone who does not wish to attend a workshop but wishes to provide input on the priorities of the council to allow the council to convey the parameters in which it operates<sup>2</sup>.

The output of these workshops would be documented; officers would review the output and produce some initial suggestions as to how the council could address issues raised and a member workshop held to review the outputs and agree priorities. The working group would then develop a draft plan for Council approval prior to a formal consultation.

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<sup>1</sup> Cllrs McCulloch (lead), Dalzell, Forbes, Lowe and Morris.

<sup>2</sup> e.g. that the council cannot fix potholes

The working group considers that the plan should cover a ten-year period of 2022-2032. It was noted that the plan would be regularly reviewed and amended as necessary should the town's priorities change or new issues come to light.

The working group agreed that the workshops should be held in March/April 2022 and that a trial workshop would be held in advance.

### **3.0 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council approves the progression of developing a new Strategic Plan for the period 2022-2032 as outlined.