



Supporting Our Community

CORPORATE PLAN 2023/27

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PART ONE – DEMOCRACY, ACCOUNTABILITY, GOVERNANCE & COMMUNICATIONS

Godalming Town Council will:

1. Build upon our democratic and participatory form of governance, by giving the public more opportunity to engage with Town Council business. **[1,2,3]**
2. Empower young people in the town by developing a Godalming Youth Council. **[4]**
3. Remain alert to opportunities to seek devolution of services from Waverley Borough Council and Surrey County Council, as appropriate to meet local needs. **[5, 14]**
4. Expand in-house service provision, where beneficial to do so, rather than contracted-out service delivery. **[6]**
5. Seek designation as a Living Wage Employer. **[8]**
6. Improve communication with residents regarding the work and activity of the Town Council. **[9, 10, 11, 17]**
7. Ensure the Godalming & Farncombe Neighbourhood Plan remains robust and based upon current information. **[12]**
8. Support and promote Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion. **[52]**

PART TWO – GREEN SPACES

Godalming Town Council will:

1. Protect open/green spaces for the community and to maximise community benefit. **[13, 14]**
2. Expand public land holdings within the boundary of Godalming Town Council to have control of and manage our local spaces. **[5, 14]**
3. Expand the grounds team accordingly to be able to manage land acquisitions. **[7]**
4. Devise a coherent strategy for enhancing planting and biodiversity within areas of green spaces. **[15, 16]**
5. Consult and engage the public on our Green Spaces Strategy. **[10, 17]**

PART THREE – INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

Godalming Town Council will:

1. Act ethically and sustainably in our procurement and support local businesses where possible. **[18]**
2. Encourage the development of local, sustainable businesses that meet local demand. **[19]**

3. Lobby for local infrastructure to support residents and local businesses now and in the future including opportunities to improve communication infrastructure and provide for active travel. **[20, 21, 22]**
4. Provide grants, support and promotion for local businesses that are actively working towards becoming carbon neutral. **[19]**
5. Improve the recording and management of Town Council assets. **[23]**
6. Continue support for community food security initiatives. **[24, 25]**
7. Lobby developers to offer Waverley affordable housing (65% or 70% of market rents) as part of their proposed developments with proper infrastructure such as charging points. **[26]**
8. Support and encourage GTC contractors to provide training and apprenticeships. **[6]**
9. Encourage and promote multi-agency approach to support community safety **[18, 27, 28, 29, 30]**

PART FOUR – ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Godalming Town Council reaffirms its declaration of a climate and ecological emergency.

A – Biodiversity and Ecology Management Measures

Godalming Town Council will:

1. Promote at least 10% Biodiversity Net Gain on private land and ensure it on land that we own. **[12]**
2. Prohibit the use of pesticides and herbicides to the maximum extent possible on GTC land and encourage others to do likewise. **[15]**
3. Promote the development of community gardens and natural wildlife corridors. **[15]**
4. Protect and manage soils, planting, and landscape to lock in carbon and prevent soil degradation wherever possible. **[15]**
5. Support measures to improve air quality and water quality across the Godalming Town Council area **[48]**

B – Carbon Reduction/Energy Management Measures

Godalming Town Council will:

1. Ensure that Godalming Town Council is carbon neutral across Scope 1 & 2 by 2025 and across all other areas of its own operations by 2030. **[31, 32]**
2. Ensure net zero scope 3 emissions by 2030. **[31, 32]**
3. Lobby for and where possible, deliver infrastructure for electric vehicles ahead of 2030. **[20, 22]**
4. Promote an understanding of the climate and ecological crisis amongst our community and work together on strategies for reduction of individual carbon footprint. **[9]**
5. Support divestment in fossil fuels and oppose development of new sources for fossil fuels through ‘fracking’, ‘acidisation’, drilling and other unsustainable approaches. **[9]**

6. Strive to be a net exporter of renewable energy to the grid by 2030. **[50]**

C – Water Conservation / Water Management Measures

Godalming Town Council will:

1. Develop a cohesive water management strategy for GTC including a baseline of current consumption. **[33]**
2. Continue to support cleaner rivers through ongoing support for Water Rangers, The River Wey Trust and strategies to promote cleaner rivers and hold water companies and polluters to account. **[9, 49]**

D – Waste Management and Other Environmental Management Issues

Godalming Town Council will:

1. Promote the concept of Godalming becoming a zero-waste town by encouraging repair, reuse, and re-fashioning in addition to recycling an increasingly wide range of items, diminishing the quantity of residual waste generated across the town. **[9, 18]**
2. Create a GTC Waste Reduction Plan and promote strategies for reducing, reusing, and recycling. **[18, 34]**
3. Encourage the reduction in the use of plastic packaging and single use plastic throughout Godalming. **[18, 35, 36]**

PART FIVE – SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

Godalming Town Council will:

1. Promote opportunities for a balanced, pedestrian and cycle-friendly, sustainable, and affordable public transport system. **[9, 20, 22]**
2. Support the Godalming/Guildford Greenway project. **[9, 20, 22]**
3. Support and engage with the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). **[20, 37]**
4. Support Waverley Borough Council in the development of an integrated and sustainable local public transport in Godalming. **[20, 38]**
5. Pursue a pedestrian-priority zone within the High Street in Godalming whilst maintaining accessibility. **[20, 22, 39]**
6. Continue to lobby for the implementation of a 20mph speed limit for the Godalming Town Council area and take action to promote active and sustainable travel. **[20, 40, 51]**

PART SIX – WELLBEING, LEISURE & THE ARTS AND EVENTS

Godalming Town Council will:

1. Encourage and promote access to sports and leisure facilities and the arts for all. **[9, 19]**

2. Support Sport Godalming and Art Godalming in encouraging and enabling greater and wider participation in sports and the arts in Godalming. **[41, 42]**
3. Engage with Waverley Borough Council on the Broadwater Park Project. Continue to encourage public participation in shaping future leisure plans for the site. **[43]**
4. Consider additional town events and to continuously review our existing events roster. **[44]**
5. Refresh the relationship with Godalming Museum to expand the learning opportunities within our community on a sustainable financial basis and promote an understanding of the local area, sustainability and biodiversity, the arts and local history through the Godalming Museum and Godalming Town Council links with local schools. **[45]**

PART SEVEN – CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Godalming Town Council will:

1. Support and encourage training and apprenticeship schemes for young people particularly in areas where there are local skill shortages, working with Waverley Training Services and other providers as appropriate. **[9, 30]**
2. Support the development of nursery provision and services for parents and families within the Godalming Town Council area. **[46]**
3. Expand the scope and impact of the Youth Service in Godalming and the surrounding area so that every child of secondary school age in the town can access the service. **[30, 47]**
4. Engage with and support other stakeholders, including the Godalming & Villages Community Store, to tackle holiday hunger. **[53]**

APPENDIX – CONSOLIDATED ACTION PLAN

Action	Part	Clause	Action			
0	ALL	ALL	Leader, Deputy Leader, administration group leaders and chair of staffing to set targets and priorities with Town Clerk and RFO as part of budget setting and investigate the public presentation of this document			
1	1	1	Explore 'listening panel' type exercises for matters of interest			
2	1	1	Work with WBC as part of its Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change			
3	1	1	Encourage participation and attendance at town council meetings through communications			
4	1	2	Design and implement a model for a Godalming Youth Council			
5	1 2	3 2	Seek a formal statement from WBC as to further devolution and transfer of assets			
6	1	4	Create a working group of the Audit Committee to explore any potential options and review existing contracts			
7	1 2	4 3	Where appropriate, and in consultation with GTC staff, restructure the council to facilitate the delivery of this corporate plan			
8	1	5	Formally apply for Living Wage Employer status			
9	1 4b 4c 4d 5 6 7	6 4, 5 2 1 1, 2 1 1	Utilise social media, print media (where appropriate) and public assets/street furniture (such as notice boards) to publicise the work and policies of Godalming Town Council. To be monitored at P&M			

10	1 2	6 5	Develop a process for more formal engagement with residents on the provision and funding of new initiatives			
11	1	6	Ensure that, where possible, all GTC provided items in the town are branded/labelled			
12	1	7	Create a working group of E&P to review the G&F Neighbourhood Plan			
13	2 1	1 3	Assess formally any opportunities for managing land currently held by Waverley Borough Council (as full freehold transfers) including, but not limited to: a. The Burys Field b. The Crown Court (including the landholding at the Public Toilets) c. Land at the Wilfrid Noyce & Land + at the Scout HQ building d. Canon Bowring Field			
14	2 1 2	1 3 2	Create a working group of P&M to explore other potential sites/asset transfer opportunities and to work with SCC and WBC to create a full, local government-owned land asset inventory for the civic parish of Godalming and to create a full Green Spaces Strategy for Godalming.			
15	2 4a	4 1, 2, 3, 4	Create a working group of E&P to design a Green Spaces Strategy			
16	2	4	Expand and modify Floral Godalming programme out of the town centre, as per the Farncombe Village & Binscombe Community Vision document, and divert the focus from high maintenance annual planting, towards lower cost, low maintenance planting for biodiversity and water conservation			
17	2 1	5 6	Issue formal consultation on green spaces strategy and review results at E&P			

18	3 3 4d	1 9 All	Create a working group of E&P to design an Ethical and Sustainable Procurement Policy to ensure that GTC buys locally and supports sustainable local businesses			
19	3 3 6	2 4 1	Seek and provide grants, events, and other in-kind support for third party organisations for delivery of GTC aims and objectives			
20	3 4b 5	3 3 All	Lobby our local Borough (Waverley) and County (Surrey) highways to expand and improve local infrastructure through the planning process and through the direction application of neighbourhood CIL (or support of applicants seeking strategic CIL)			
21	3	3	Support Waverley in the creation of a telecommunications strategy			
22	3 4b 5	3 3 1, 2, 5	Support Waverley and Surrey in the delivery of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)			
23	3	5	Create a full catalogue of all GTC-managed assets (including street furniture) and create a programme for the renewal, refresh, and expansion of street furniture (seating, signage etc.) across the town			
24	3	6	Continue working relationship with the Community Store			
25	3	6	P&M to investigate support for provision of meals for children who cannot access free school meals and provision of food at the youth centre during holidays			
26	3	7	Engage as part of the E&P committee process			
27	3	9	Continue to work as part of the Safer Waverley Partnership			
28	3	9	Invite the South-West Surrey Citizens' Advice to present local trends and information to council once per annum			
29	3	9	Invite the Police to present local trends and information to council once per annum			

30	3 7	9 1, 3	Publication and presentation of Annual Report from the Youth Service. Annual Staffing Committee meeting with youth service staff			
31	4b	1	Continue to deliver and monitor the GTC investment plan and monitor carbon reduction at E&P			
32	4b	1, 2	Undertake a full analysis of the Scope 3 footprint for suppliers to GTC and develop a trajectory to net zero by 2030			
33	4c	1	Create a working group of E&P to baseline GTC water usage and create a Water Management Plan for GTC			
34	4d	2	Create a working group of E&P to baseline GTC waste and create a Waste Reduction and Recycle Plan for GTC that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a network of repair and re-use points across Godalming • a network of recycling points for hard-to-recycle items. • reduction in the use of plastic packaging and single use plastic throughout Godalming. 			
35	4d	3	Prohibit single use plastics at GTC hosted events and in our buildings			
36	4d	3	Write to Waverley requesting support for such a byelaw/restriction at local events and by street peddlers including balloons, helium balloons etc.			
37	5	3	Request a Waverley-led overview of the LCWIP status at E&P			
38	5	4	Write to WBC requesting more information on its plans for a pilot sustainable bus scheme in Godalming			
39	5	5	Write to SCC asking for an update on previous requests for a pedestrianised zone through the high street			
40	5	6	Write to SCC asking for an update on previous requests for 20mph zones through the town			
41	6	2	Appoint a GTC rep for Sport Godalming			

42	6	2	Appoint a GTC rep for Art Godalming			
43	6	3	Request a briefing/update from the WBC project team at E&P			
44	6	4	Create an events Task & Finish Group			
45	6	5	Request a briefing/update from the Godalming Museum Curator at P&M			
46	7	2	Ongoing project (new site at Broadwater)			
47	7	3	P&M to assess the projected expansion of the service vs this goal			
48	4a	5	Work with WBC to identify potential air quality 'hotspots' in Godalming and develop mechanisms for improving air quality across the GTC area			
49	4c	2	Continue to support Water Rangers, promoting its work within the Godalming community			
50	4b	6	Investigate potential sites for generation of renewable energy in Godalming			
51	5	6	Develop a scheme to enable residents and businesses to trial the use of e-bikes and cargo bikes			
52	1	8	Annual review of the Equality & Diversity Policy and statement			
53	7	4	Commission a task and finish group to engage with the Community Store and other stakeholders in regard to local food security and holiday hunger			