



Parish and Town Council Seminar – 28 November 2024

Welcome



Agenda for evening:

- **Welcome** Leader of the Council, Councillor Richard Stanley
- **Parish Precepts** Lead Member Finance and Asset Management, Councillor Stewart Dove and Associate Director: Finance, Emma Harley
- **NPPF** Lead Member Planning and Place Making, Councillor Mary Jordan and Associate Director: Planning, Nick Bryant
- **Name Change** Leader of the Council, Councillor Richard Stanley
- **Council Plan:** Leader of the Council, Councillor Richard Stanley
- **Refreshment break**
- **Place Programme** Lead Member Planning and Place Making, Councillor Mary Jordan and Director: Communities, Peter Tonge
- **Community Resilience** Leader of the Council, Councillor Richard Stanley and
(planning for an emergency) Director: Communities, Peter Tonge



Parish Precepts



- The Local Government Finance Act 1992 states that precepts may be set by parishes and towns for their budget requirements, and this calculation is to be issued to the billing authority.
- The tax base is what determines the charge to each household (e.g. if it decreases the charge will go up)
- Unlike district councils there is currently no referendum limit
- Approval at town/parish meeting and notify us by 31 January 2025 (round to nearest £10)
- Precepts under £25k paid by the end of April otherwise 50% in April and 50% in September



Tax base

- The tax base is made up of the number of households within the district less adjustments for exemptions for properties where council tax cannot be collected and discounts such as single occupancy.
- Each property falls into a “band” and we apply a factor in each band to bring us back to a value for each property equivalent to a Band D (e.g. Band H is worth 2 x Band D)

Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Multiplier	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9	15/9	18/9

- Charge to council taxpayers is precept divided by tax base
e.g. parish ask for £10,000 and tax base is 125.6 so Band D would pay $(10,000/125.6) =$ £79.62 (Band H is £159.24)



How we calculate the tax base

- Statutory day for calculation is 30 November
- List of current properties from council tax system adjusted for discounts and exemptions
- Discounts include single person discount, carers discount and students living in a property
- Exemptions include people with severe mental impairment, properties occupied by full time students and people detained in prison
- Disabled band reduction scheme – bill is reduced to one band lower
- Premiums charged on long term empty properties and second homes



- Allowance made for new build properties
- Reduction for those receiving Council Tax Reduction
- Add on MOD properties (exempt from council tax but pay contribution in lieu)
- Collection rate adjustment (98%)



What is council tax reduction?

- Council Tax Reduction replaced Council Tax Benefit in 2013
- Localised Council Tax Reduction scheme approved by each Council
- Based on family income/circumstances and applied directly to the bill
- Pensionable age claimants remain in a protected category and have a higher savings allowance than a working age claimant (£10k savings compared to £6k)



Points to note

- Districts bear the risk of collection (parishes get exactly what they precept)
- Tax bases can go up or down every year

Example – precept kept same for two years but increase in council tax reduction and discounts reduces the tax base

2023-24

Parish Precept Requirement	£10,000
Divide by the Tax Base	123.6
= Band D Council Tax Charge	£80.91

2024-25

Parish Precept Requirement	£10,000
Divide by the Tax Base	115.9
= Band D Council Tax Charge	£86.28



Final points

- We will write to you early December
- Deadline is 31 January 2025 for parish requests
- Council tax declaration at full Council on 25 February 2025
- Tight deadline to issue bills and direct debit notifications
- [Parish precept - Tewkesbury Borough Council](#) – details on our website
- Any questions?



Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system

Nick Bryant – Associate Director Planning



Government Consultation – July 2024:

- **Revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**
- **Wider proposals including increasing planning fees**

Key Proposals: more of the same ... or different?

- Presumption in favour of sustainable development remains largely unchanged.
- 5 year housing land supply requirements reinforced with re-introduction of buffer
- Importance of plan-making is reinforced - intervention from the Secretary of State where councils fail to make sufficient timely progress
- Strengthening obligations on cross boundary working - Duty-to-Cooperate and strategic planning arrangements are bolstered. Also a commitment to introduce universal strategic planning mechanisms covering functional economic areas.
- Scrapping of the 'advisory' element of calculating housing need - Plans are expected to aim to meet a new standard method for the calculation of housing needs
- Stronger emphasis on planning for economic growth with a particular emphasis on meeting needs of modern industries
- Green Belts required to be reviewed. Introduction of "Grey Belt" with "golden rules" (50% affordable housing and community infrastructure)
- Renewable and low carbon energy have been beefed up
- Definition of projects capable of being Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) which go through a different route to the securing of planning consent.

Green Belt / Grey Belt

Grey Belt

- Describes 'Grey Belt' as covering areas of Previously Developed Land (PDL) and/or land that make a *"limited contribution"* to the five Green Belt purposes
- Expands the definition of development that is not inappropriate in the Green Belt to include *"Grey Belt land in sustainable locations"*

Green Belt Reviews

- Where necessary to release Green Belt land for development, plans should give first consideration to PDL in sustainable locations; then consider 'Grey Belt' land in sustainable locations which is not already PDL, and only then consider other sustainable Green Belt locations
- Housing need / lack of five year housing land supply can justify exceptional circumstances for releasing Green Belt
- Introduces specific policies (Golden Rules) that apply both to developments on land released from the Green Belt and developments that have been permitted through the DM process. These policies require;
 - I. For housing, provision of at least 50% affordable housing (subject to viability);
 - II. Necessary improvements to local or national infrastructure; and
 - III. Provision of new, or improvements to existing green spaces that are accessible to the public

The response to the NPPF consultation – a summary (1)

- A joint Cheltenham-Gloucester-Tewkesbury SLP response was issued in September 2024
- Focused on key issues, rather than detailed response to each of 109 questions
- Government to be realistic and proportionate in its reforms. Emphasised the importance of existing cross boundary partnerships in operating the Duty to Co-operate particularly the SLP – evolution not revolution.
- Supported the retention of a plan-led system but made clear how unrealistic greatly increased housing targets would be to meet. Infrastructure, viability and willingness/ability of industry to deliver.
- Opposed reintroduction of the buffer for 5 year housing land supply calculations. Increased SM figures should be phased in over time
- Ongoing periods of “presumption” will erode public confidence in the system and serve to undermine it
- Strongly support “brownfield first” but need to recognise limits to capacity
- Expressed concern over how – and when - to define Grey Belt. Must be evidenced through local plans to avoid endless argument with applicants
- Support golden rules, if they can be delivered, although these should be a wider aspiration in any case

The response to the NPPF consultation – a summary (2)

- Broadly supported proposals to modernise the economy but Government must address fundamental constraints such as motorway junction capacity. Government must lead on finding solutions.
- Support shift to green energy subject to other planning considerations and local evidence on capacity.
- A much firmer basis to allow councils to require improved energy performance of new buildings is needed to tackle the causes and effects of climate change
- Support planning fee increases, although we have doubts as to whether this will amount to cost recovery
- Urged caution is introducing local fee setting.
- Full cost recovery for all types of application (including zero fee apps) should be the goal

Questions



**Town and parish council update -
council name change**

November 2024

1. Background

2. Update on the roll out plan and what to expect over the next few months – 10 mins

3. Q & A – 10 mins



Council decision

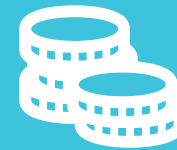
A decision was made at an Extraordinary Council meeting on Tuesday, 3 September 2024.



APPROVED
changing the council's
name to North
Gloucestershire Borough
Council



APPROVED
logo 1 as the North
Gloucestershire
Borough Council logo



APPROVED
delegated authority to the
chief executive to develop
a roll out plan with a
budget of £10,000

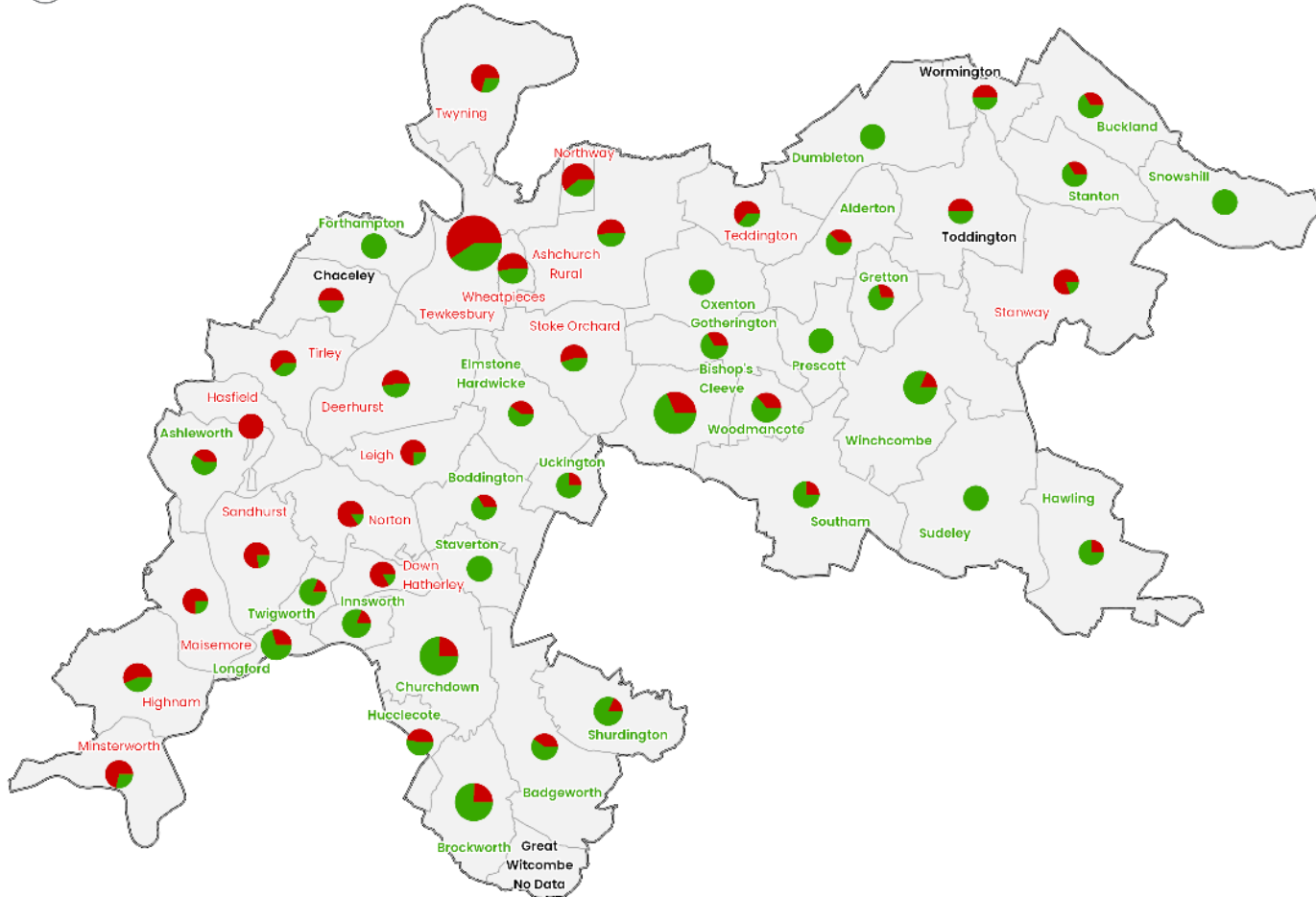
Name Change Consultation Opinion



Not in support

In support

Total number of responses



Consultation 2: feedback overview

- This map shows responses by parish area to the question ‘do you support changing the council’s name to North Gloucestershire Borough Council?’
- 58.64% of respondents support the change of name to North Gloucestershire Borough Council.
- 41.36% of respondents do not support the change of name to North Gloucestershire Borough Council.
- Notably Bishops Cleeve, Brockworth and Churchdown were areas where the majority of respondents would like to see the council’s name change to North Gloucestershire Borough Council.

Update



Worked with service areas to create a roll out plan.



Consulted with MHCLG to notify the Secretary of State.



Identified assets that need to be changed immediately.



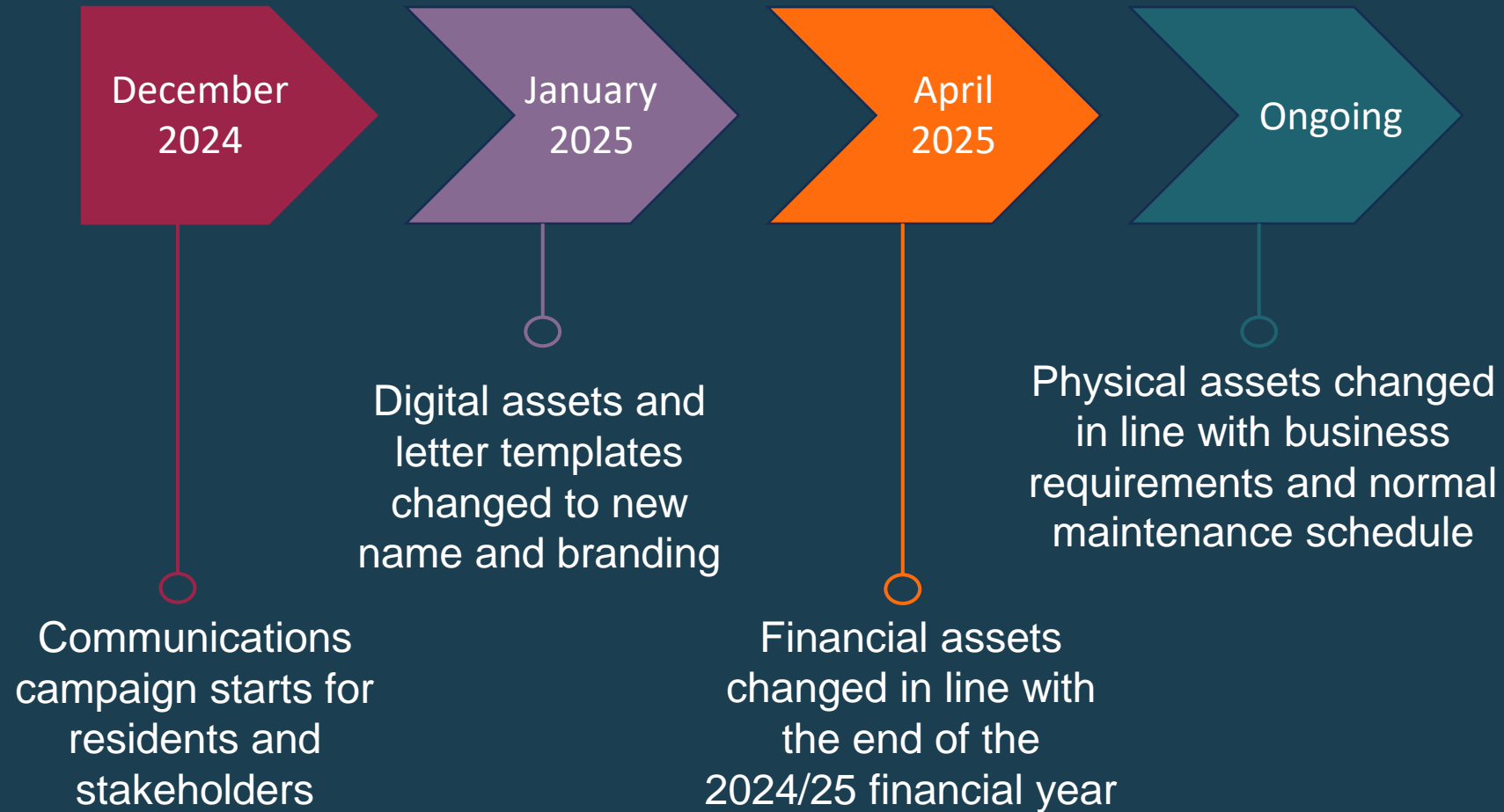
Monitored immediate expenditure to keep within budget.



Created articles for Borough News. Residents will receive this in December.

Paused: while we await the publication before Christmas of the Government's upcoming English Devolution White Paper; given that changes to local government's structure could put the project on hold or make it unnecessary.

Next steps and Roll out plan



Q&A





Council Plan Update



Our vision

'Supporting people, strengthening communities'

Our values



Open and honest



Respectful



Inclusive

Our priorities



Our eight areas of focus



- **Economy**
- **Managing growth**
- **Flood resilience**
- **Climate and ecological emergency**
- **Housing and homelessness**
- **Health and wellbeing**
- **Place**
- **Young people**



Climate and ecological emergency

What are we going to do?

- Gather baseline data to inform a borough-wide Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy.
- Improve our performance on the national Council Climate Action Scorecard position.
- Review our Procurement Strategy to ensure climate action and waste reduction principles are embedded within it.
- Evaluate all council land holdings for opportunities to support nature recovery and biodiversity, including developing a new Tree Strategy.
- Roll out smaller bins for new housing developments to reduce the amount of waste per household and explore options to further reduce waste.
- Install vehicle charging points in our car parks and work with partners to provide secure cycle storage across our Borough.
- Deliver grant schemes to support nature recovery projects.
- Develop an evidence base on climate and ecological sustainability to inform the development of future planning policy.
- Work with Gloucestershire Nature and Climate Fund (GNCF) to explore options for bio-diversity net gain on sites within the borough.



Flood resilience

What are we going to do?

- Work with partners to improve our shared flooding response and recovery approach.
- Working with external agencies, support the delivery of small scheme flood protection measures and watercourse management.
- Work with the Local Resilience Forum to develop community resilience plans including those related to flooding.
- Commission a new Strategic Flood Risk Assessment to inform the development of future planning policy.



Place

What are we going to do?

- Develop a Place Programme, with parish councils and local communities, to produce place plans for distinct areas of the borough (e.g. larger settlements and surrounding parishes or the more rural areas).
- Adopt the Tewkesbury Masterplan and develop an action list of the priorities for regenerating Tewkesbury town centre.
- Work with partners in developing a Community Safety Strategy and an associated action plan to deliver the arising priorities, such as reducing antisocial behaviour.
- Work with local communities and health partners to develop and deliver a programme of activity aimed at preventing the development of long-term illnesses and encourage community wellbeing.



Managing growth

What are we going to do?

- Work with providers to prepare an Infrastructure Delivery Plan, as part of the evidence base that informs the preparation of the Strategic and Local Plan.
- Deliver improvements to maximise planning obligations (Section 106) and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL); providing infrastructure to support new developments.
- Continue to promote the Garden Communities Charter and share to all stakeholders via the Garden Communities governance structure.
- Complete a stewardship strategy, with landowners' agreement, for the Garden Communities and establish a stewardship body to receive and manage all community infrastructure resources.
- Support the development of a southern Garden Communities (phase 2) masterplan, including an employment strategy.

Housing and homelessness

What are we going to do?

- Ensure instances of rough sleeping are rare, brief and non-recurrent by reacting quickly to individuals in need.
- Maximise the supply of appropriate affordable housing, giving priority to social rented homes and other tenures that meet our community's needs.
- Find alternative options to reduce the use of bed and breakfasts and hotels for temporary accommodation.
- Complete individual action plans for every property that has been empty for over two years, identifying the options available to the council to bring each property back into use.
- Ensure appropriate interventions are carried out to ensure that properties are safe and free from significant health risks, for example damp and mould.
- Explore possible development sites, working with communities and registered providers to develop a community-led approach to delivering affordable housing in rural areas.
- Explore options for the council to begin to deliver affordable housing on our brownfield land.



Economy

What are we going to do?

- Deliver the Employment and Skills Hub Outreach project to reduce barriers to employment.
- Extend the support provided to businesses through the Growth Hub by creating a proactive business voice network.
- Provide support to ensure that businesses and communities benefit from national funding schemes (e.g. UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural England Prosperity Fund). This will include net zero and start up business support, as well as a business grant scheme.
- Work with partners to promote the growth of key sectors, including: advanced engineering and manufacturing, agri-tech and aerospace.
- Commission an Employment Land Use Study to inform the development of future planning policy.



Young people

What are we going to do?

- Develop a communication and engagement plan focussing on young people participation in council business and local issues.
- Work with others such as the Integrated Locality Partnership and Young Gloucestershire to support young people dealing with anxiety issues back into education.
- Review and enhance our Care Leavers' Covenant throughout our services.
- Work with Young Gloucestershire to develop a young person's panel as part of the Garden Communities Programme.



Health and wellbeing

What are we going to do?

- Develop a health and wellbeing strategy and action plan to address health inequalities such as accessibility and inclusion.
- Work with partners to refresh our support measures for those impacted by the increase in the cost of living.
- Work with the Integrated Care Board (ICB), Integrated Locality Partnership (ILP) and local communities to ensure that health and wellbeing strategies inform the development of future planning policies.
- Review and enhance our offer to our armed forces community through the Armed Forces Covenant.
- Work with the Gloucestershire Strategic Migration Partnership to continue to support asylum seekers and refugees, helping them to live a safe and settled life with their living and welfare needs met.

Tewkesbury Borough Council

PLACE Programme

Enhancing Places for
Community Wellbeing

Content

- Our Council Plan and priorities
- Overview
- Two key areas of focus
- Ambition
- Engagement and Governance
- Proposals
- Facilitation
- Development of a place plan
- Next steps and timescales
- Proposed structure and areas



Supporting people, strengthening communities.

Our Council Plan priorities.

Caring for Place - Our goal is to create positive change that enhances the quality of life and opportunities for people across our borough.

‘Our Place’ - holding brand name.

Overview

Tewkesbury Borough has diverse and unique places

Varying social, economic and environmental
challenges and opportunities

“One size fits all” won’t deliver the overall health and
wellbeing improvements.

Ambition to support and strengthen our communities
through effective local community leadership and governance,
based on effective partnerships.

Two key areas of focus for Our Place

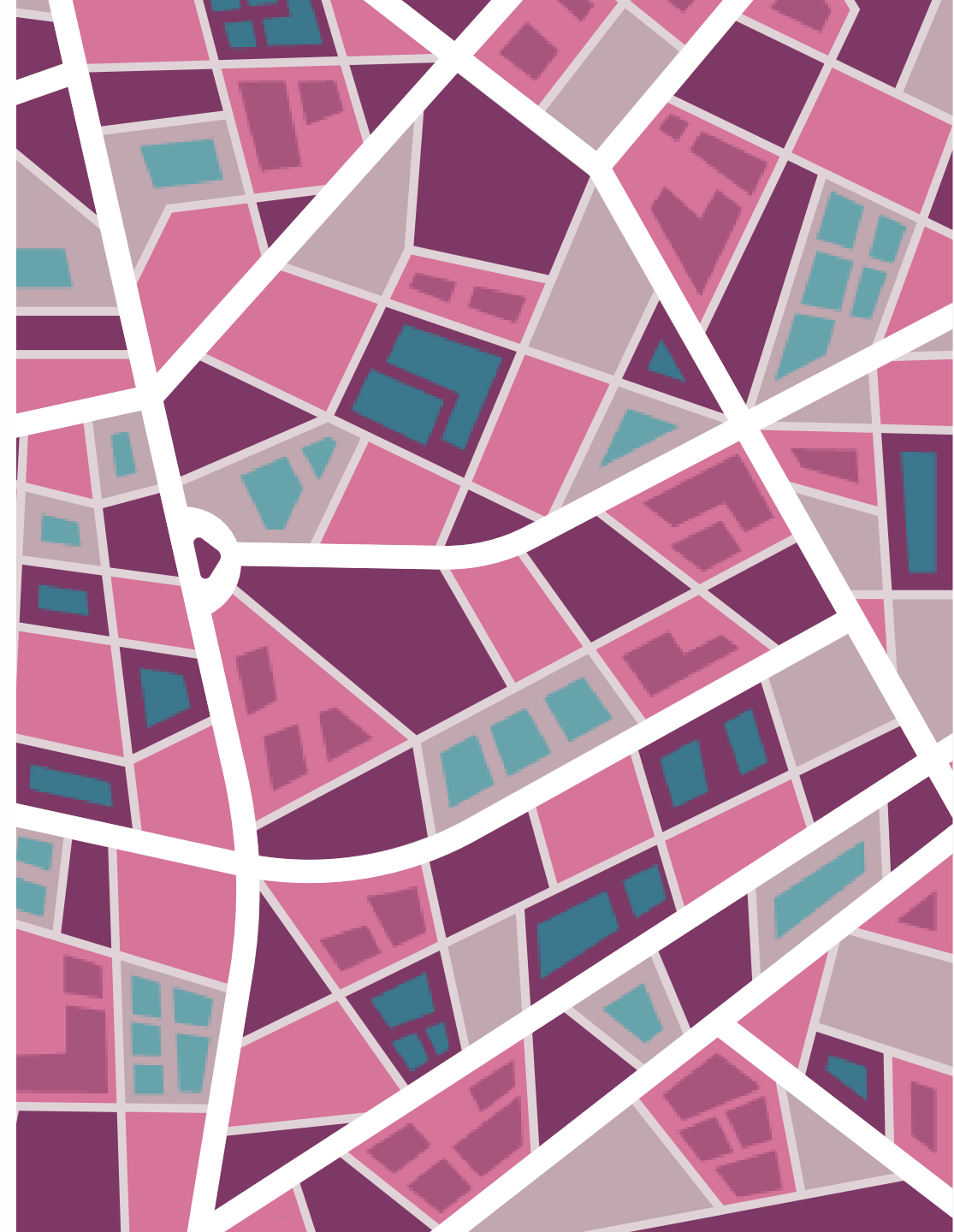
Improve local infrastructure and community cohesion.

Use existing data and partner intelligence to address
evidence-based health and wellbeing
issues in local areas.



Ambition

Provide a framework for Tewkesbury Borough Council to work in partnership with stakeholders in identify local areas to address locally evidenced priorities in securing economic, social and environmental improvement.



Engagement and Governance

Successfully address local issues and realise improvement opportunities a system of engagement and appropriate governance.

Recognising partners will have their own governance and processes.

Collaborate and prioritise issues of concern.

Engagement and Governance

We propose for the Place Programme

Area Place Boards

Cross organisation public, private and third sector boards drawn from county council members, borough council members, area parishes/towns, local businesses and local voluntary groups.

Area Forums

Quarterly open forums for residents and business and third sector groups to come together to consider key topics of concern within that area, consider existing responses and develop further actions as needed.

Area Place Plans

A key component of the Place Programme process is evidence-based priority actions drawn from quantitative and qualitative intelligence on key local issues, setting out responsibilities for individual or collective action in delivering on key priorities.



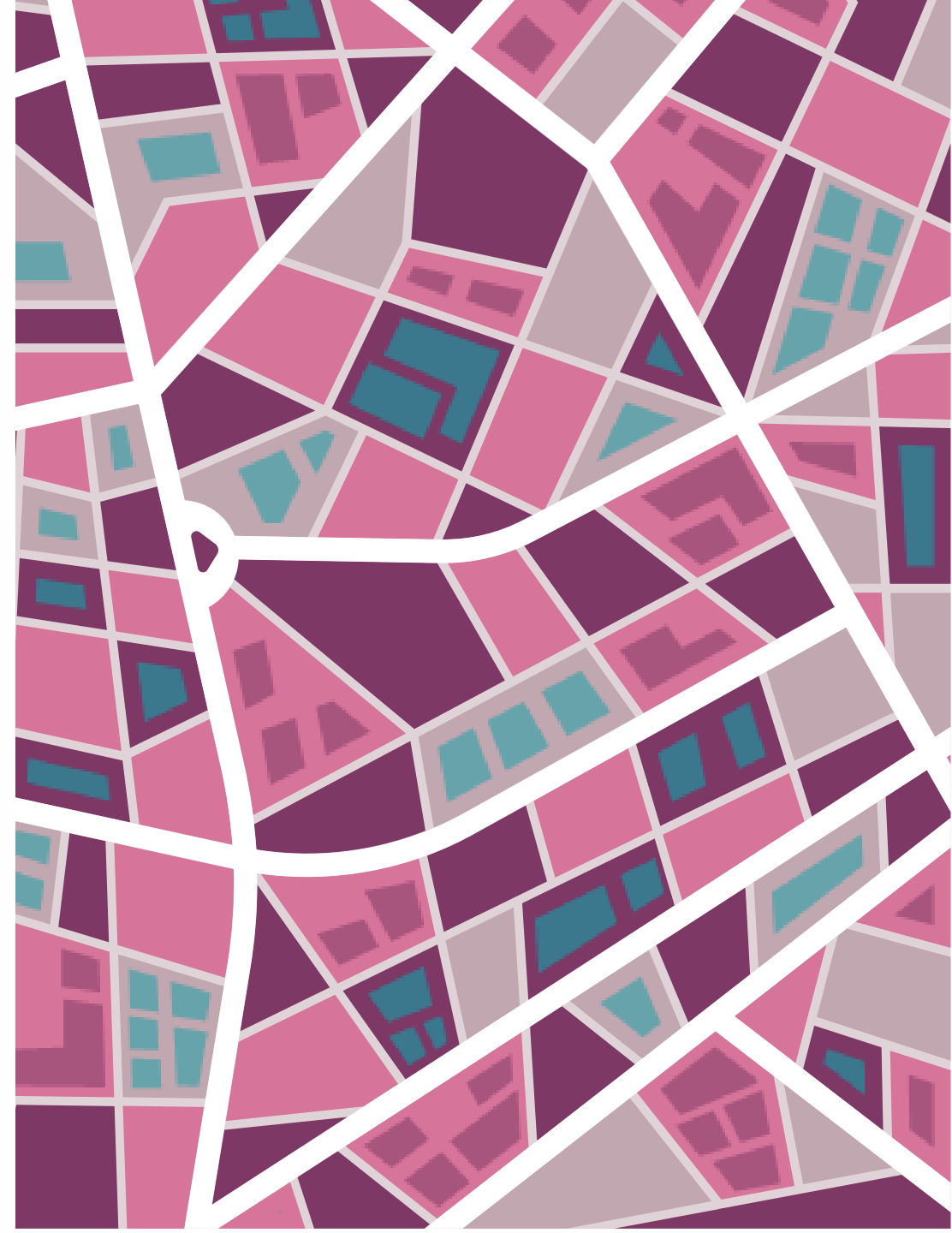
Facilitation

For the Our Place Programme we propose:

Our Place Area teams

Led by a council Director, a core team of area focused officers, other agencies and partners in tackling locally identified priorities and addressing opportunities.

Identifying resources locally, regionally and nationally to address local priorities.





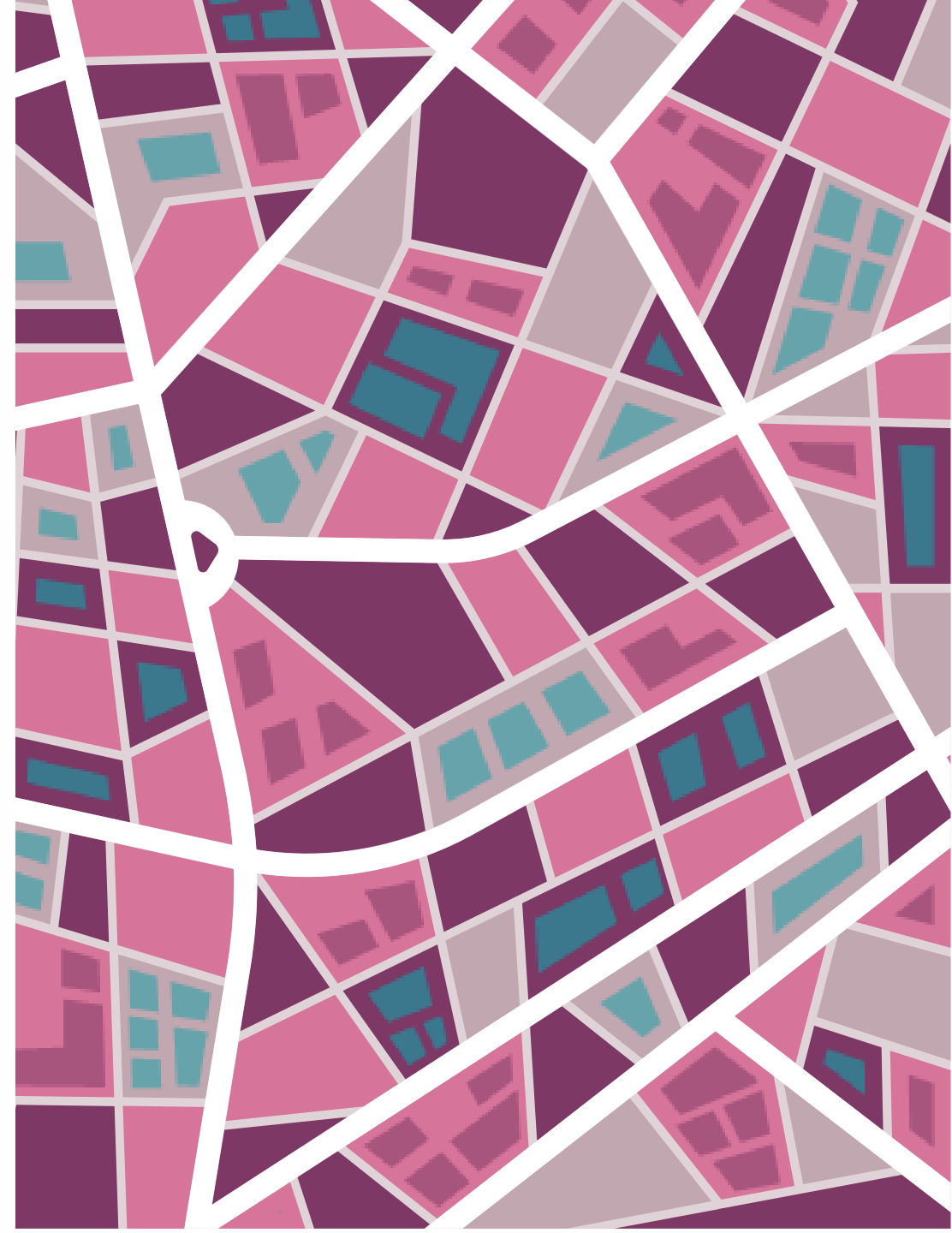
Development of Our Place Plan

Engagement with the community and stakeholders on the Area.

Forums will develop an evidence-based action plan.

The action plans will prioritise what needs to be improved in that specific geographic area.

Over a 3 year period.



Next steps and timescales

The Our Place programme roll out will consist of three main phases.

Output of a number of area focused boards in place by April 2025.

Production of area improvement plans to be in place for each area by
December 2025.

Phase 1 – October '24 – February '25 - Area identification, scoping,
evidence gathering and stakeholder engagement on principle.

Phase 2 – December '24 – January '25 – Establishment of internal
support and partnership area governance structures.

Phase 3 – February '25 to December '25 - Development of
place boards and area improvement plans (pause for pre-election
period and election).



Comments and questions

Community Resilience

January 2024's first flooding event saw over 230 properties affected by flooding with over 150 with water inside the properties. For this event TBC provided over 400 sandbags to various residents across the borough, which is time consuming and resource intensive – not a great service.



Community Resilience

During the second flood event in January TBC worked much more closely with those affected parish councils to provide bulk bags of sand and empty sandbags so that residents could be better supported, more quickly and at a local level – feedback was that this worked well.

We would like to work more closely with the town and parishes in affected areas to formalise our arrangements for flood response, looking at how we can better support you to support your residents.