**Rugby Borough Council Liberal Democrats**

**Proposed amendment for Corporate Priorities**

**Insert and add the following objectives under the headings as follows.**

**The Liberal Democrat group also recognises the existing work streams such as on Town Centre regeneration which is a key priority for all groups on the Council. If any of the items listed below are adopted the Liberal Democrat group requests that they are fully involved and is not just left to Portfolio Holders.**

**OUTCOME 1 - CLIMATE**

**Project 1: Improving Urban local centres / Shopping Parades**

Conduct at least two proof of concept sites to be selected, with the intention of improving the public realm around urban shopping parades.

Specifically targeted at

1. New measures to improve biodiversity around urban shopping parades (e.g., planters, trees, living bus shelters),
2. Targeted activity to improve waste management (utilisation of big belly bins or separate recycling bins) and
3. building fabric improvements
4. Improve the public realm around urban shopping parades to establish a sense of pride in place.

**Project 2: Community / Edible Gardens**

Develop further and promote community food growing projects under the title of “Grow Your Own” including allotments and community orchards.

Specific projects:

1. Pilot location(s) to be identified by locally elected Councillors.
2. Community development/ involvement offer, to broaden the use of such facilities.
3. Targeted support to enhance the offer and ongoing sustainability of existing groups including local schools.
4. Advice to individuals/ households as to how they can ‘grow their own’.
5. Work with Garden Organic to help develop support and advice.

This will link to other proposed projects such as the prevention strategy project (through ‘eating well’ advice), climate hub and cohesive communities project (through the use of volunteers).

**Project 3: Rugby Climate Emergency Centre (Rugby Climate Hub)**

Building upon the Preliminary discussions which have taken place with community groups regarding the potential to establish a Climate Emergency Centre within the Borough. There is enthusiasm for such a project, however discussions are at a preliminary stage, with a business plan yet to be produced.

The Hub will provide a base for eating well advice (linking to community/ edible growing project) as well as advice on issues such as community composting and living sustainably.

Further information relating to Climate Emergency Centres can be found at the following links <https://climateemergencycentre.co.uk/> and Totnes [https://totnesclimatehub.info](https://totnesclimatehub.info/)

**Project 4: Climate Risk and Adaptation**

Detailed analysis of the climate risks being faced by the Borough and robust adaptation plans produced detailing:

1. How Council services including our housing stock can be adapted to remain viable in a changing climate
2. Actions which individuals can take to ensure they continue to thrive in a changing environment.
3. Create an offer to residents and schools that will make Rugby a leader in nature recovery, by working with Warwickshire Wildlife and Garden Organic. Pollinator plants, seeds etc
4. Actions which other stakeholders (businesses, community groups etc.) can take to ensure that they continue to adapt to a changing environment.
5. Actions to support and work more closely with the Environment Agency, Waterways Trust, agricultural sector within the Borough to adapt to the changing climate.

**OUTCOME 2 – WELLBEING - ECONOMY**

**Project 1: Maximising Tourism**

Project will seek to Develop and implement a tourism strategy which focuses on those within a 25-mile radius of the Borough and are day tourists recognising that Rugby is a destination place.

The Strategy will develop action plans that strengthen.

1. Rugby’s cultural offering
2. Rugby’s day and night economies
3. Establish regular major festivals BikeFest, Food, Literature, music.
4. Integrate our Heritage and tourism into major council strategies such as town centre regeneration and economic strategies.
5. Create sculpture trails that link to the heritage of Rugby.

**Project 2: Economic Strategy**

Project will oversee the development of an Economic Strategy for the Borough and will have natural links to tourism and town centre projects. The strategy will consider solutions such as:

1. Establishing a Fund to support Social Enterprise & Cooperatives,
2. Linking in with other social value projects (such as community energy generation)
3. Develop new markets for the Borough building on its strengths and looking to the future, for example an artificial intelligence Logistics Training Hub.
4. Ensure that future local development plans can be informed by the strategy.
5. How town centre regeneration can support the broader economic development of the Borough
6. Seek to develop and improve the overnight hotel and bed & breakfast offer in Rugby.
7. Develop a conference facility offer.

This will be delivered in partnership with WCC, Warwickshire College and other key stakeholders.

**Project 3: Town Centre Regeneration**

Progressing Town Centre Regeneration with pace and focus

This will include:

1. Strong focus on developing pride in Rugby.
2. Stakeholder and public engagement
3. Improving public access and Wi-Fi
4. Health & wellbeing initiatives a nice place to be “feel good factor”.
5. Public realm and street furniture improvements (such as bus shelters)
6. The development of a cultural / creative quarter.
7. Use of Council assets including buildings and car parks.
8. Revisit the market offer.
9. Support start-ups.
10. Transport infrastructure that connects walking, cycling and public transport routes.

Project will have links to maximising tourism project, economic strategy project and climate emergency centres project.

**OUTCOME 3 – HEALTHY COMMUNITIES**

**Project 1: Prevention Strategy**

The health and wellbeing of our residents is a priority as is reducing health inequalities that exist these projects will seek to enhance Rugby’s prevention offer and will predominantly be delivered through the Rugby Health Place Partnership.

The project will seek opportunities to:

1. Enhance Rugby’s offer through initiatives such as establishing cross cutting health led multi-disciplinary neighbourhood teams.
2. Build upon the existing voluntary and statutory sector offers such as social prescribing, compassionate communities, Age UK, and others.
3. Develop further air quality improvements such as clean air zones.
4. Develop further our sports and leisure offer which reduce obesity, heart failure supported by eating well programmes.
5. Introduce support for residents of all ages to maintain good mental health.
6. Address the increasing age demographic such as frailty with older people and loneliness and isolation.
7. Promote the health benefits which can be derived through volunteering.
8. Target health inequalities across the Borough by building on the good work of family centres and voluntary organisations that already exist.
9. Continue to strive to bring services back to St Cross and develop more NHS services locally in Rugby.
10. Create “Safe Places to Talk” programme using local cafes
11. Update the healthy walks programme to a "Refreshing walks" guide. A pdf guide to local walks (town and villages) which have a cafe or pub at either start/end or during the walk. Promotion of local businesses and meets leisure and wellbeing targets.

The project will link to the community/ edible gardens project, climate emergency centre hub project, economic strategy project and cohesive communities’ project.

**Project 2: Cohesive Communities**

This project will seek to develop more inclusive and cohesive communities within Rugby and build further community capacity by making best use of existing assets.

Outputs will include:

1. Support for communities wishing to develop neighbourhood plans.
2. Improved linkages with established community facilities
3. Reducing exclusion in all forms (including digital)
4. The development of Safe spaces
5. Improved youth engagement
6. Support for Councillors who are bringing a comprehensive range of community initiatives together such as family fun days to their communities. Under the banner of building pride in our community.

The project will link to the community/ edible gardens project, the economic strategy, and the prevention strategy.

**Project 3: Partnership Governance**

To review and rationalise all partnership governance around a single more focussed structure (similar to previous LSPs). Under the following themes of health, economy, community safety and environment.

Structure will consider how best to formalise links with:

1. Parish Councils,
2. The Voluntary Sector
3. Educational establishments
4. Public sector partners
5. Local businesses / Growth hub / Chamber of Commerce
6. Agricultural sector NFU, Organic farming.
7. County / Regional / national government

It will seek to deliver outcomes relating to above projects and individual issues such as participatory budgeting, strengthening democracy, youth engagement, inclusion, health inequalities and social justice.

**OUTCOME 4 – OUR COUNCIL ORGANISATION**

**Project 1: HR strategy**

Project will see the production of a single HR Strategy to include:

1. Increased training & support for staff especially in mental health and DV issues (more empathy needed)
2. Staff sickness & turnover improvement (KPI)
3. Conduct a wage review how does RBC fair against the sector.

and include specific policies that embed consideration of the following into all Council work:

1. Access to services
2. Digital divide
3. Disability
4. Gender & Sexuality
5. Ethnicity
6. Human Rights
7. Social economic

**Project 2: Project Management**

To establish and implement robust project management practices, enabling a clear prioritisation of work with outputs and timescales understood by all such as Price2 project planning <https://www.prince2.com/uk/what-is-prince2>

This methodology will be taken forward in all council project work, enabling transparency for elected members, the public and other stakeholders.

**Project 3: Performance management**

To establish and implement robust framework for Performance Management using Power BI, alongside the use of softer indicators such as UN Sustainable Development Goals and Thriving Places mixed ingredients.

**Existing Projects for Further Input/development**

The Liberal Democrat Group recognise that the following projects are already being delivered and would like further input into defining the objectives, timescales and performance measures associated with them.

* Woodland and Biodiversity Strategy: The project has previously been shared with the Climate Emergency Working Group and the group should now set clear timescales, objectives, outputs and performance measures for this strategy.
* Recycling/ circular economy: With the recruitment of a waste education officer and other initiatives such as the launch of Sherbourne recycling, a clear project plan should be developed setting out measures which the Council will take to support residents to reduce waste, supporting a circular economy.
* EV Charging Strategy and Infrastructure: It is recognised that work has begun in this area, though progress is slow. A clear project plan should be established with timelines, agreed outputs and measures of success. With Warwickshire County Council
* Transport / connectivity: It is recognised that work is ongoing, particularly in relation to the Local Transport Plan and in relation to Town Centre Regeneration – this work should now be accelerated with clear priorities which allow for sustainable transport in and around the Borough.
* Local plan, CIL, neighbourhood planning: It is recognised that changes to the local plan have been proposed and agreed in the previous municipal year. It is essential that any developments relating to the local plan are now taken forward in dialogue across the political groups.
* (Ceasing) Caldecott Developments: The project has not delivered the expected outcomes. It is proposed that the projects is ceased and a refreshed plan relating to commercial activity is developed.
* Housing: It is recognised that much work has been delivered in relation to the Borough’s housing offer, however further work is needed in terms of homelessness prevention, improving temporary accommodation, HMO/ Private rented standards and affordable housing (Local Plan)
* Digitalisation within council services: Further consideration needs to be given to how council services can maximise efficiency through digital solutions, while ensuring that no resident is excluded through lack of digital capability.