

As the Town Council begins its new electoral term it should do so with a strong vision of what its priorities are during the next four years. In order to do this, it is recommended that the Town Council hold a vision session with the aim to,

**Identify the key priorities of the Council during its term as well as the aspirations of the council, in terms of service delivery, resources and financial stability.**

Outlined below are some suggestions that the council could consider as part of this session;

- What are the Town Council's main priorities for the next 4 years?
- What are the new opportunities and challenges that will face the Town Council during the next 4 years?
- What are the essential services for the council to deliver in the future and why?
- What other services could or should the council deliver and for who – what further services should the Town Council accept from Shropshire Council if any?
- What role should the Town Council be playing in other county based strategies e.g. economic development, tourism?
- How does the Council engage better with the community to ensure that way local taxes are being spent have the support of local residents?

The session could be held on either a Saturday or a weekday later afternoon /evening, it is not anticipated that a room booking fee will be charged for a weekday event but a booking fee may be charged if the session is to be held at the weekend.

### **Facilitator**

To make the most of the time and ensure that the session is kept on track and does not deviate from its aim the Council could engage the services of an external facilitator to oversee the running of the event. It is anticipated that a facilitator would cost in the region of £200 depending on the length of time they are required. In 2017 this was not thought necessary and the Clerk facilitated the event. Councillors should be aware that if the Clerk were to facilitate the event this may result in Councillors not expressing their true opinions for fear of not upsetting staff with views that they may have and it may be more appropriate if staff are not present

Refreshments could be provided to keep costs down if it is to be held on a Saturday a bring and share lunch could be organised.

Report writing – it may be necessary to request that the facilitator produces the final report from the day, but there will be an additional cost if this service were to be provided.

### **Financing**

This event could be financed out of the training budget, subject to the cost of a facilitator and room booking.

### **Timescale**

If the Council were to go ahead with an event of this nature it would be useful if a date could be set in October/ November as this will fit with 2021-22 budget discussions.

### **Recommendation**

That a vision session is arranged at a time agreed by the Town Council and that Councillors decide whether they wish staff to be present and whether they wish to engage the services of a facilitator.