



THORPE ST ANDREW TOWN COUNCIL

Roxley Hall, Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, NR7 0QF
Tel/Fax: (01603) 701048. Email: office@thorpestandrew-tc.gov.uk

Notice of Council Meeting

You are hereby summoned to attend the meeting of Thorpe St Andrew Town Council to be held at Roxley Hall on 6th November 2023 at 7.30pm for the purpose of transacting the following business.

M Barron

Michelle Barron

AGENDA

- 1 Attendance book and apologies for absence.**
- 2 Declarations of interest in items on the Agenda.**
- 3 To confirm the minutes of the Town council meeting held on 2nd Oct 2023**
- 4 Announcements (for information only)**
 - 4.1 - The Town Mayor
 - 4.2 - The Town Clerk
- 5 Public Participation – To consider a motion to suspend the meeting to allow members of the public the opportunity to address the meeting limited to 3 Minutes each.**
 - 5.1 - Norfolk Constabulary
 - 5.2 - County and District Councillors (Written Report Cllr J Ward)
 - 5.3 - Members of the Public

Chief Executive Officer – Michelle Barron

Thorpe St Andrew Town Council, Town Hall, Pound Lane, Thorpe St Andrew,
NR7 0UL Tel: 01603 701048

Email: office@thorpestandrew-tc.gov.uk

Website: www.thorpestandrew-tc.gov.uk

VAT No. 107 2921 90

6 Update on Events

a: Remembrance

b: Fireworks

c: Christmas

7 Finance

7.1 - Payments List

7.2 - Bank Reconciliation Statement - to be tabled

7.3 - Quarter 2 budget monitoring report

7.4 - Budget for 2024-2025

7.5 - Outsourced verge cutting.

8 Neighbourhood Plan – for consideration and resolution.

Feedback from Councillor John Fisher.

9 General power of Competence – for consideration and resolution

To consider adopting the general power of competence for the election period 2023 – 2027.

10 Exclusion of Press and Public – for consideration and resolution

To exclude the press and public in accordance with the Public Bodies (admission to meeting Act) 1960, due to the sensitive and confidential nature of the items to be discussed.

11 Staithes Report – for consideration and resolution

Confidential papers will be tabled.

12 River Green – for consideration and resolution

To discuss what steps (if any) the council may wish to take prior to the commencement of the riverbed lease.

Future Agenda Items (Not for Discussion)

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**Thorpe St Andrew Town Council
Minutes of the Town Council meeting
held on 2 October 2023 at 7:30pm**

1 PRESENT:

Mr F Bowe (Town Mayor)	Ms L Skinner
Mr S Snelling (Deputy Town Mayor)	Ms M Friend
Mr D Wiseman	Mr J Fisher
Mr C Eden	Mr J Emsell
Mr P Berry	Ms L Barrett
Mr T Garner	Ms C Ferris
Mr S Court	Mr J Ward

APOLOGIES: Mr D Buck and Ms J Bailey

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs M Barron (CEO), Mrs R McCarthy (OM/RFO), Mrs D Wheatley (Administration and Communications Officer), Mr J Calver (Parks and Estates Manager), Mrs L Weston (Administration and Committee Officer) and 10 members of the public.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr Snelling and Cllr Bowe declared an interest in matters relating to item 6a on the agenda.

3 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2023.

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2023 were signed and approved as a true record.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS (For information only)

(i) The Town Mayor – Feedback and comments received on the Neighbourhood Plan, the Town Clerk will cover this item. Cllr Wiseman raised an issue with maintenance of the footbridge over the railway, enquiries ongoing with Network Rail and County Council, will come back to Council when there is something tangible to report from those agencies. Spoke to CEO about improvements to the play equipment at Fitzmaurice Park, items for change and this will also come back to Council. Very pleased to attend the Battle of Britain flag raising at the parish church recently. Weekly meetings ongoing with the CEO as normal.

(ii) The CEO - all consultation docs back regarding the Neighbourhood Plan, a meeting will take place in the next couple of weeks and it will come back to the committee. The negative feedback from Norfolk County Council was read out to Members, in response to public participation at the last Town Council meeting, regarding traffic control on South Avenue and speeding on Yarmouth Road. The OM/RFO - the RFO and Parks and Estates Manager recently attended a conference on Anti Terrorism, very interesting and relevant for dealing with large public events,

attention was given to Martin's Law. Also attended a virtual conference related to allotment management. After a recommendation from the Allotment Society, with immediate effect, the Town Council will no longer treat rats, as they are a natural phenomenon and wasp problems will fall to the Tennant to deal with.

5 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –To consider a motion to suspend the meeting to allow members of the public the opportunity to address the meeting limited to 3 mins each

5.1 Norfolk Constabulary – No report

5.2 County and District Councillors - Members noted the report from Cllr Ward.

Cllr Berry, following an unpleasant incident on the crossing at the junction of Spinny Road/Thunder Lane, police were aware, improvement and speed awareness is required. Also, a visit to the Heartsease roundabout site, although some problems have been identified, it appears to be on schedule. Finally, a planning appeal considered a few months ago for a new property on Thorpe Road has been rejected.

Cllr Emsell gave an update on completed Broadland District Council projects including the move to the new Horizon building, Broadland Food Innovation Centre. Also, a motion to support improvements to the A47 was voted against. Cllr Emsell will continue to report back on decisions that impact residents.

Cllr Eden added that the A47 motion didn't say anything new but they're still fully committed.

5.3 Members of the public – One member of the public raised the maintenance of the footbridge over the railway line and the underground pipe at River Green. The CEO responded to both items which are in hand.

A member of public wished to bring the maintenance of the Morse Tennis Courts to the Council's attention, highlighting particular concerns. The CEO responded to the concerns.

Father James mentioned the Harvest Festival taking place Sunday 8 October at the church and also the importance of improving and preserving the footbridge over the railway, welcoming the Council's support in this matter.

A member of public spoke of his concerns about the brief agenda, the negligence of the Town Clerk and RFO in preparation of the agenda and the 11 September, with particular reference to the Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2038. Also, mentioning missing agenda items for finance and dismay that financial information had not been circulated in advance of the meeting. Agenda items do not clearly indicate what is to be discussed and the website is not up to date or does it provide a list of meeting dates. The CEO responded to the Neighbourhood Plan item and the RFO responded to the financial points raised. The Town Mayor confirmed that all substantive issues would be dealt with.

6 EVENTS UPDATE

- a) Remembrance – Norfolk County Council has refused the road closure request for Remembrance, due to the Heartsease roundabout road closures. A strong appeal has been sent and every endeavour will be made to try to push this through. Behind the scenes everything else is in place and ready to go.
- b) Fireworks – went live on 1 October, in 24 hours, 418 general admission tickets sold and 23 tickets to under 3's. Responses still required from 8 Councillors to confirm availability to volunteer, currently there are 9 Councillors, 10 staff and 2 public volunteers
- a) Christmas – the Town Council currently has 23 craft stalls booked and paid for, one has asked for a refund. The Church event will require 7 Councillors to support the Christmas light switch on at that event.

Cllr Ward proposed to refund the stall holder, seconded by Cllr Fisher, motion agreed with a show of hands, with two against.

7 FINANCE

- (i) Payments List – report tabled and noted, the RFO answered a question from Cllr Ward regarding the Legal Charges.
- (i) Bank Reconciliation Statement – report tabled and noted

8 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on 18 September 2023 were noted.

9 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND STAFFING COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the Finance and Staffing Committee meeting held on 25 September 2023 were noted. Cllr Snelling questioned the procedure for presenting the financial information at the Town Council meeting, proposing it is scrutinised by F&S before going to Town Council. A motion and agreement by the Council would be required to make this change, the Town Mayor asked that it be explored outside the meeting and taken to the next Town Council meeting.

10. MORSE REGENERATION PROJECT – for consideration

The CEO outlined the plans, although old, the concept is good, but more could be done to make best use of the space and benefit the community. Many councillors contributed to the discussion and the CEO asked the Council to decide on the way forward.

Cllr Fisher proposed that the Council Officers investigate proposals for the Morse Site, seconded by Cllr Emsell and a show of hands with one against,

11 DISTRIBUTION OF MEETING PAPERS

The RFO asked the Councillors to contact the office and confirm if they would like hard copies of the meeting papers, prepared and distributed at the meeting. Cllr Snelling asked for all documents to be PDF format.

FURTHER AGENDA ITEMS (Not for Discussion) - None

Meeting closed at 8.26pm

Chairman _____

Date _____

Report from Councillor John Ward

Norfolk County Council

Central Government have now given a commitment to fund the majority of the cost of the Norwich Western Link.

A County Deal has been agreed in principle with the Government, transferring funding and powers to this area. Norfolk will be able to decide how to spend, each year,

a £20m investment fund

£7m for brownfield developments

£12m for Adult education

£5.9m for housing regeneration & development.

Councillors will decide in December, whether to proceed to a final deal.

At Norwich Castle, the impressive glass atrium roof has been lifted into place. The new cafe and shop should be open before Christmas, and the whole project is on schedule for completion in April 2024.

The County Council is working on the 2024/25 budget which is currently showing a £46m deficit, although possible savings of £23m have been identified and work on the remainder is continuing. Our Cabinet Member for Finance, Cllr Andrew Jamieson is confident that we will get to a balanced budget but there will need to be a Council Tax increase of 4.99%.

Greenborough Road, from its junction with Woodside Road to its junction with Hammond Way will be closed, except for access, 16/10- 4/12 for footway reconstruction works.

Arts Council England has announced a grant of £1.7m to deliver a 2024-26 Museum Development Programme for the partnership Norfolk Museums / Brighton & Hove Museums.

NCC has joined forces with Lincolnshire C.C. to reinstate the Stagecoach 505 bus from Kings Lynn to Spalding.

NCC is receiving £13.4m from Central Government to run the Household Support Fund which has a number of support measures for residents struggling to make ends meet.

Details at www.norfolk.gov.uk/costofliving

NCC have launched 15 new School & Community Teams aimed at helping schools & families whose children need extra support with their education. The teams are part of £100m investment in Special Education Needs in Norfolk

THORPE ST ANDREW TOWN COUNCIL: Q2 BUDGET REPORT 2023/24

ALLOTMENTS	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%	OVER/UNDER SPEND	COST CODE TOTAL
PAYMENTS											
Dussindale Maintenance	1350	1689	1500	70.00	140.00			210.00	14%		
Dussindale Rent	400	405	450	399.93				399.93	89%		
Dussindale Water	417	498	600	0.00	136.65			136.65	23%		
Hillside Maintenance	2705	1477	1500	164.91	1120.00			1284.91	86%		
Hillside Water	409	1656	850	0.00				0.00	0%		
Rent & Deposit	258	225		25.00	50.00			75.00			
Water Charges	368							0.00			
TOTAL	5907	5950	4900	659.84	1446.65	0.00	0.00	2106.49	43%	2793.51	
RECEIPTS											
Rents/deposits	9131	5662	5000	99.00	4315.48			4414.48	88%		
Water charges	1417	1418	1000	6.65	1022.91			1029.56	103%		
TOTAL	10548	7080	6000	105.65	5338.39	0.00	0.00	5444.04	91%	-555.96	2237.55

BROADLAND DC ELECTIONS	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%	OVER/UNDER SPEND	COST CODE TOTAL
PAYMENTS											
Election costs	7079	4773	7000		8607.01			8607.01	123%		
TOTAL	7079	4773	7000	0.00	8607.01	0.00	0.00	8607.01	0%	-1607.01	-1607.01

BUILDING MAINTENANCE	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%	OVER/UNDER SPEND	COST CODE TOTAL
PAYMENTS											
Town Hall	4594	4285	7000	1056.46	1891.53			2947.99	42%		
Morse Pavilion	3066	10365	7000	599.72	203.37			803.09	11%		
Roxley Hall	662	4640	3000	811.47	293.37			1104.84	37%		
Café	2279	1739	1000	0.00				0.00	0%		
River Green	177	10235	3000	991.46	113.37			1104.83	37%		
TOTAL	10778	31264	21000	3459.11	2501.64	0.00	0.00	5960.75	28%	15039.25	
RECEIPTS											
Town Hall		57						0.00			
Café		40						0.00			
TOTAL	0	97	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00	15039.25

BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%	OVER/UNDER SPEND	COST CODE TOTAL
PAYMENTS											
Payments	593	1714	1000					0.00	0%		
TOTAL	593	1714	1000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	1000.00	
RECEIPTS											
Receipts	420	673	450	0.00				0.00	0%		
TOTAL	420	673	450	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	-450.00	550.00

CAPITAL SPENDING	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%	OVER/UNDER SPEND	COST CODE TOTAL
PAYMENTS											
Asset Replacement	10305	36868	5000					0.00	0%		
Buildings & Amenity Areas		93804	7500	3205.00	1679.50			4884.50	65%		
Town Hall	755	3225	5000					0.00	0%		
Projects		6295	16000	1980.00				1980.00	12%		
War Memorial	1008										
TOTAL	12068	140192	33500	5185.00	1679.50	0.00	0.00	6864.5	20%	26635.50	26635.50

CEMETERY	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%	OVER/UNDER SPEND	COST CODE TOTAL
PAYMENTS											
Maintenance	2450		2000		400.00			400.00	20%		
Water Charges	116	230	250	62.69	56.69			119.38	48%		
TOTAL	2566	230	2250	62.69	456.69	0.00	0.00	519.38	23%	1730.62	1730.62

COMM. INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%	OVER/UNDER SPEND	COST CODE TOTAL
PAYMENTS											
Payments											
TOTAL	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00	
RECEIPTS											
Receipts	13523	10225						0.00			
TOTAL	13523	10225	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00	0.00

CONTINGENCY	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%	OVER/UNDER SPEND	COST CODE TOTAL
PAYMENTS											
Payments			5000								
TOTAL	0	0	5000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	5000.00	5000.00

EVENTS	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%
PAYMENTS									
One Off Payments	2658	1654	2000	1039.46				1039.46	52%
St Georges Day		530	2000	1667.92				1667.92	83%
Fireworks	5716	11065	9000	457.50	3953.50			4411.00	49%
Remembrance Day	577	960	500					0.00	0%
Xmas Event	5714	7010	2500		308.48			308.48	12%
Sovereign Events		10841	5000	6901.07				6901.07	138%
Additional Events		428	500	1306.70	822.21			2128.91	426%
NEW Commemorative Events				0.00				0.00	
TOTAL	14665	32488	21500	11372.65	5084.19	0.00	0.00	16456.84	77%
RECEIPTS									
One Off Payments	1159			33.34				33.34	
St Georges Day		667	500	957.89				957.89	192%
Fireworks	17511	33252	15000	25.00	608.32			633.32	4%
Xmas Event	841	1824	500	187.49	838.28			1025.77	205%
Sovereign Events		3458	3500	2207.23				2207.23	63%
Additional Events		516	500	425.67	379.86			805.53	161%
TOTAL	19511	39717	20000	3836.62	1826.46	0.00	0.00	5663.08	28%

5043.16

-14336.92

-9293.76

FITZMAURICE PARK/TOWN HALL	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%
PAYMENTS									
Cleaning	767	141		356.50	99.42			455.92	
Cricket Maintenance	588	958	1000					0.00	0%
Electricity	6592	4366	6000	1691.70	937.35			2629.05	44%
Field Maintenance Contract	7357	3569	7000	425.29				425.29	6%
Sports Turf Maintenance	330								
Park Maintenance	5496	3020	2500	391.97	871.78			1263.75	51%
Play Equipment Maintenance	17	171	1000		6.07			6.07	1%
Water rates	378	613	700	0.00	139.17			139.17	20%
Wheeled/Litter/Dog Bins	1485	2412	2000	311.89	531.09			842.98	42%
Youth Shelter Maintenance		177	400					0.00	0%
Tennis Court Maintenance			400					0.00	0%
TOTAL	23010	15427	21000	3177.35	2584.88	0.00	0.00	5762.23	27%
RECEIPTS									
Field Maintenance Contract		3230						0.00	
Cricket Income	1907	2436	2000		157.50			157.50	8%
Lettings	21362	16743	15000	2250.00	2916.67			5166.67	34%
Other Income	171	250		179.19	27.09			206.28	
TOTAL	23440	22659	17000	2429.19	3101.26	0.00	0.00	5530.45	33%

15237.77

-11469.55

3768.22

GRANTS	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%
PAYMENTS									
Payments	1770	1321		306.00				306.00	
TOTAL	1770	1321	0	306.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	306.00	0%
RECEIPTS									
Receipts	1000	1767		1145.00				1145.00	
TOTAL	1000	1767	0	1145.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1145.00	0%

-306.00

1145.00

839.00

LEASES	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%
PAYMENTS									
Payments	5562	4402	5200	1018.38	1018.38			2036.76	39%
TOTAL	5562	4402	5200	1018.38	1018.38	0.00	0.00	2036.76	39%

3163.24

3163.24

LEGAL FEES	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%
PAYMENTS									
Legal Charges	11499	18498	8000	2263.67	1786.20			4049.87	51%
TOTAL	11499	18498	8000	2263.67	1786.20	0.00	0.00	4049.87	51%
RECEIPTS									
Receipts		15388		0.00	0.00			0.00	
TOTAL	0	15388	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%

3950.13

0.00

3950.13

LOAN REPAYMENT	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%
PAYMENTS									
Roxley Hall Loan	20269	18206	19435	9769.34				9769.34	50%
Town Hall Loan	3894	3850	3806		1908.43			1908.43	50%
River Green Lights	3566	3566	3566	1783.14				1783.14	50%
TOTAL	27729	25622	26807	11552.48	1908.43	0.00	0.00	13460.91	50%

13346.09

13346.09

NEIGHBOURHOOD & TOWN PLAN	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%
PAYMENTS									
Neighbourhood/Town Plan	1033	3750	1000	400.00				400.00	40%
TOTAL	1033	3750	1000	400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	400.00	40%
RECEIPTS									
Neighbourhood/Town Plan		3330						0.00	
TOTAL	0	3330	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%

600.00

0.00

NEWSLETTER	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%
PAYMENTS									
Newsletter	2288	4431	2500					0.00	0%
TOTAL	2288	4431	2500	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%

2500.00 2500.00

PRECEPT	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%
RECEIPTS									
Precept	518758	534569	550654	275327.00	275327.00			550654.00	100%
TOTAL	518758	534569	550654	275327.00	275327.00	0.00	0.00	550654.00	100%

0.00 0.00

RIVER GREEN	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%
PAYMENTS									
Staithe Picnic Area	128							0.00	
Electricity	1719	1997	1500	241.82	994.57			1236.39	82%
River Green Maintenance	1511	1679	3000	479.93	137.50			617.43	21%
War Memorial Maintenance	4							0.00	
Rates (Toilets)	2027							0.00	
Electricity (Toilets)	1102	1231	1700	323.87	178.90			502.77	30%
Cleaning (Toilets)	4155	191	100	703.74	1716.00			2419.74	2420%
Water (Toilets)	1193	1524	800		814.18			814.18	102%
TOTAL	11839	6622	7100	1749.36	3841.15	0.00	0.00	5590.51	79%
RECEIPTS									
Electricity		1760			790.34			790.34	
Income	1291	713	1500					0.00	0%
Rates (Toilets)	2944							0.00	
TOTAL	1291	713	1500	0.00	790.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%

1509.49
-1500.00 9.49

ROXLEY HALL	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%
PAYMENTS									
Cleaning	2028	560	500	778.17	1778.77			2556.94	511%
Electricity	678	1025	1500	286.29	277.64			563.93	38%
Gas	1871	1587	2000	646.09	365.73			1011.82	51%
Miscellaneous	1619	865	500		15.42			15.42	3%
Rates	4790	5546	6000	4463.47	172.07			4635.54	77%
Water	496	305	500	104.57	132.45			237.02	47%
Lettings		66			91.88				
Telephone	441	1614	500	78.00	117.00			195.00	39%
TOTAL	11923	11568	11500	6356.59	2950.96	0.00	0.00	9215.67	80%
RECEIPTS									
Miscellaneous	114	78						0.00	
Lettings	7055	15491	12000	3124.12	3808.93			6933.05	58%
TOTAL	7169	15569	12000	3124.12	3808.93	0.00	0.00	6933.05	58%

2284.33
-5066.95 -2782.62

S106 PAYMENTS & DONATIONS	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%
PAYMENTS									
Section 106									
TOTAL	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%
RECEIPTS									
Section 106		52458						0.00	
TOTAL	0	52458	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%

0.00
0.00 0

S137 PAYMENTS & DONATIONS	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%
PAYMENTS									
S137 Payments & Donations	50	550		0.00					
TOTAL	50	550	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%
RECEIPTS									
S137 Payments & Donations									
TOTAL	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%

0.00
0.00 0

SALARIES	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%
PAYMENTS									
A Salary, Employer NIC & Pension	46409								
B Salary, Employer NIC & Pension	5952								
C Salary, Employer NIC & Pension	4488								
D Salary, Employer NIC & Pension	115841								
E Salary, Employer NIC & Pension	15100								
F Salary, Employer NIC & Pension	566								
G Salary, Employer NIC & Pension		4423							
Student Loan	268	585	500	183.00	183.00			366.00	73%
H Salary	22652	26184	27344	7354.74	7354.74			14709.48	54%
H Pension Employer	5386	6425	6563	1771.38	1771.38			3542.76	54%
H Employer NIC	1943	2575	2700	726.39	726.39			1452.78	54%
J Salary	18456	22208	22777	5694.24	5694.24			11388.48	50%
J Pension Employer	4337	5330	5466	1338.15	1338.15			2676.30	49%
J Employer NIC	1326	1912	2100	471.99	471.99			943.98	45%
K Salary	18456	22208	22777	5694.24	5694.24			11388.48	50%
K Pension Employer	4337	5330	5466	1338.15	1338.15			2676.30	49%
K Employer NIC	1326	1912	2100	471.99	471.99			943.98	45%
L Salary	9872	20259	22369					0.00	0%
L Pension Employer	2320	4307	5368					0.00	0%
L Employer NIC	752	2302	2100					0.00	0%
M Salary	14400	57600	47665	14400.00	12345.03			26745.03	56%
M Pension Employer			11440		645.08			645.08	6%
M Employer NIC			4800		274.21			274.21	6%
N Salary	18826	30324	31099	8454.99	8454.99			16909.98	54%
N Pension Employer	4424	7278	7464	1986.93	1986.93			3973.86	53%
N Employer NIC	1378	3090	3100	852.96	852.96			1705.92	55%
P Salary	5806	20141	21940	4701.51	4701.51			9403.02	43%
P Pension Employer			5266					0.00	0%
P Employer NIC	394	1614	2100	334.98	334.98			669.96	32%
Q Salary		5525	18000	4534.26	4534.26			9068.52	50%
Q Pension Employer		1326		1065.54	1065.54			2131.08	
Q Employer NIC		344		311.91	311.91			623.82	
R Salary		948		3117.00	3117.00			6234.00	
R Pension Employer		228		732.51	732.51			1465.02	
R Employer NIC		26		116.34	116.34			232.68	
S Salary			12000	468.22	1199.11			1667.33	14%
S Pension Employer				110.03	281.79			391.82	
S Employer NIC								0.00	
Salary Contingency			5000					0.00	0%
TOTAL	325015	254404	297504	66231.45	65998.42	0.00	0.00	132229.87	44%

165274.13

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SIR GEORGE MORSE PARK & PAVILION	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%
PAYMENTS									
Cleaning and Cleaning Materials	10530	1760	2500	766.53	1778.76			2545.29	102%
Electricity	4194	5267	5000	769.49	1403.89			2173.38	43%
Equipment Hire	675	2490	2000	280.00	265.00			545.00	27%
Field Maintenance Contract	10654	10316	16000	3158.04	4099.14			7257.18	45%
Fuel	2144	2509	2200	617.01	535.49			1152.50	52%
Grounds Machinery Maintenance	4561	1280	3000	637.22	715.60			1352.82	45%
Materials Fixtures & Fittings	1832	883	1500					0.00	0%
Mileage	113				27.09			27.09	
Miscellaneous	836		500					0.00	0%
Gas	954	1583	2000	219.26	69.36			288.62	14%
Park Maintenance	3280	1437	1500	349.50	1591.49			1940.99	129%
Play Equipment Maintenance	3371	444	2000					0.00	0%
Sports Turf Maintenance	1310							0.00	
Telephone	1369	1569	2000	128.34	142.95			271.29	14%
Tools & Equipment	1130	1597	1000	391.27	94.98			486.25	49%
Training	2507	320						0.00	
Water Rates	922	1781	1600	337.68	460.22			797.90	50%
Wheeled/litter/dog bins	1908	2477	2300	334.51	519.31			853.82	37%
Football Maintenance	3233	663	2500	4043.00				4043.00	162%
Rates	2470	2470	2500	2470.05				2470.05	99%
Feed-In Tariff	1171	1273	1500					0.00	0%
Tennis Courts Maintenance	640		500	219.10	-109.55			109.55	22%
Health & Safety	2397	3147	2500	91.30	62.27			153.57	6%
Vehicle Maintenance	646	2940	1000	713.72	94.33			808.05	81%
TOTAL	62847	46206	55600	15526.02	11750.33	0.00	0.00	27276.35	49%
RECEIPTS									
Electricity		1380	2000	497.66	499.76			997.42	50%
Field Maintenance Contract		3230						0.00	
Fuel		50		25.00				25.00	
Gas	23							0.00	
Tools & Equipment		7109		333.33				333.33	
Football Income	7664	7362	10000	2428.33				2428.33	24%
Lettings	4533	5400	5400	900.00	1350.00			2250.00	42%
Rates		1494						0.00	
Feed-In Tariff	1171	1273	1500	303.96	244.99			548.95	
Telephone		10		0.00				0.00	
TOTAL	13391	27308	18900	4488.28	2094.75	0.00	0.00	6583.03	35%

28323.65

-12316.97

16006.68

STREET FURNITURE	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%		
PAYMENTS											
Cleaning bus shelters	1175	1695	1700	435.00	440.00			875.00	51%		
Repairs and Maintenance		254	500	455.04	2.92			457.96	92%		
Bus Shelter	385							0.00			
Memorial Donation	196	75		585.13	694.82			1279.95			
TOTAL	1756	2024	2200	1475.17	1137.74	0.00	0.00	2612.91	119%	-412.91	
RECEIPTS											
Memorial Donation	258	143.07		939.99	66.66			1006.65			
TOTAL	258	143.07	0	939.99	66.66	0.00	0.00	1006.65	0%	1006.65	593.74

STREET LIGHTING	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%		
PAYMENTS											
Energy Charge	23690	36698	25000	8026.87	10805.04			18831.91	75%		
Maintenance Contract	4800	4800	7000	800.00	1200.00			2000.00	29%		
Repairs	12246	19152	12000	6470.00	790.00			7260.00	61%		
Structural Testing	3737										
TOTAL	44473	60650	44000	15296.87	12795.04	0.00	0.00	28091.91	64%	15908.09	15908.09

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%		
PAYMENTS											
Audit	1450	1425	2000	135.00	1680.00			1815.00	91%		
Bank charges	137	118	200	14.00	85.85			99.85	50%		
Mayors Expenses	182	409	300	16.20				16.20	5%		
Computer/Photocopier	132	850		-24.83				-24.83			
Insurance	7921	8486	9000	9754.95				9754.95	108%		
Miscellaneous	540	441	250	64.65	53.38			118.03	47%		
Office equipment	174	940	1000	22.62	581.27			603.89	60%		
Telephone	1473	1458	1200	125.25	910.56			1035.81	86%		
Postage	764	26	250	65.00	90.67			155.67	62%		
Stationery	875	310	500	95.02				95.02	19%		
Subscriptions	4439	6059	5000	2804.71	754.05			3558.76	71%		
Training/H&S	895	2605	4000	109.00	2960.89			3069.89	77%		
Bottle Bank	60	130	100	32.40	79.20			111.60	112%		
Photocopy charges	841	1056	1200	35.81	275.71			311.52	26%		
Rates	3393	3393	3400	3043.90				3043.90	90%		
HR Costs	3907	330	2000	497.00	301.10			798.10	40%		
Uniform			500	356.92	225.39			582.31	116%		
TOTAL	27183	28036	30900	17147.60	7998.07	0.00	0.00	25145.67	81%	5754.33	
RECEIPTS											
Mayors Expenses	15							0.00			
Miscellaneous	9	475	100	40.00	100.00			140.00			
Subscriptions		1250						0.00			
Bank Charges		-1						0.00			
Bank Interest	49	953	100	789.11	1120.50			1909.61	1910%		
Bottle bank	106	417	300					0.00	0%		
Telephone		14		0.00				0.00			
TOTAL	179	3108	500	829.11	1220.50	0.00	0.00	2049.61	410%	1549.61	7303.94

TREE MANAGEMENT	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%		
PAYMENTS											
Tree Expenditure		9174	9000		800.00			800.00	9%		
TOTAL	0	9174	9000	0.00	800.00	0.00	0.00	800.00	9%	8200.00	8200.00
RECEIPTS											
Tree Expenditure	40							0.00			
TOTAL	40	0	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	0.00	0.00

VERGE CUTTING	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%		
PAYMENTS											
Fuel & Machinery Maintenance	1260	904	2500	944.21	795.91			1740.12	70%		
Verge Cutting	5725	683	1000		257.71			257.71	26%		
Equipment Hire	3950	4620	5000	1320.00	1320.00			2640.00	53%		
TOTAL	10935	6207	8500	2264.21	2373.62	0.00	0.00	4637.83	55%	3862.17	
RECEIPTS											
Verge Cutting	17417	18845	19000		21370.23			21370.23	112%		
TOTAL	17417	18845	19000	0.00	21370.23	0.00	0.00	21370.23	112%	-2370.23	1491.94

WEBSITE	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%		
PAYMENTS											
Website Costs	660	1420	1000	625.00				625.00	63%		
TOTAL	660	1420	1000	625.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	625.00	63%	375.00	375

YOUTH COUNCIL	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%		
PAYMENTS											
Payments	292		1000								
TOTAL	292	0	1000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0%	1000.00	1000

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD	%	
Expenditure	645904	166129	136719	0	302756	47%	
Income	95250	16898	39618	0	55725	59%	
Precept Performance	550654	149231	97101	0	247031	45%	
TOTAL					281239		

* LEGAL FEES £8,200.63 STILL OWED

THORPE ST ANDREW TOWN COUNCIL: BUDGET 2024/25 SECOND DRAFT (FTC)

ALLOTMENTS	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	YTD	Budget 24/25
PAYMENTS					
Dussindale Maintenance	1350	1689	1500	210.00	1500
Dussindale Rent	400	405	450	399.93	450
Dussindale Water	417	498	600	136.65	500
Hillside Maintenance	2705	1477	1500	1284.91	2000
Hillside Water	409	1656	850	0.00	1050
Rent & Deposit	258	225		75.00	
Water Charges	368			0.00	
TOTAL	5907	5950	4900	2106.49	5500
RECEIPTS					
Rents/deposits	9131	5662	5000	4414.48	5000
Water Charges	1417	1418	1000	1029.56	1000
TOTAL	10548	7080	6000	5444.04	6000

BROADLAND DC ELECTIONS	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	YTD	Budget 24/25
PAYMENTS					
Election costs	7079	4773	7000	8607.01	9000
TOTAL	7079	4773	7000	8607.01	9000

BUILDING MAINTENANCE	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	YTD	Budget 24/25
PAYMENTS					
Town Hall	4594	4285	7000	2947.99	7000
Morse Pavilion	3066	10365	7000	803.09	7000
Roxley Hall	662	4640	3000	1104.84	3000
Café	2279	1739	1000	0.00	1000
River Green	177	10235	3000	1104.83	3000
TOTAL	10778	31264	21000	5960.75	21000
RECEIPTS					
Town Hall		57		0.00	
Café		40		0.00	
TOTAL	0	97	0	0.00	0

BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	YTD	Budget 24/25
PAYMENTS					
Payments	593	1714	1000	0.00	500
TOTAL	593	1714	1000	0.00	500
RECEIPTS					
Receipts	420	673	450	0.00	1000
TOTAL	420	673	450	0.00	1000

CAPITAL SPENDING	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	YTD	Budget 24/25
PAYMENTS					
Asset Replacement	10305	36868	5000	0.00	5000
Buildings & Amenity Areas		93804	7500	4884.50	7500
Town Hall	755	3225	5000	0.00	5000
Projects		6295	16000	1980.00	47500
War Memorial	1008				
TOTAL	12068	140192	33500	6864.5	65000

CEMETERY	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	YTD	Budget 24/25
PAYMENTS					
Maintenance	2450		2000	400.00	0
Water Charges	116	230	250	119.38	0
TOTAL	2566	230	2250	519.38	0

Moved to S.137

COMM. INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	YTD	Budget 24/25
PAYMENTS					
Payments					
TOTAL	0	0	0	0.00	0
RECEIPTS					
Receipts	13523	10225		0.00	
TOTAL	13523	10225	0	0.00	0

CONTINGENCY	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	YTD	Budget 24/25
PAYMENTS					
Payments			5000		5000
TOTAL	0	0	5000	0.00	5000

EVENTS	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	YTD	Budget 24/25
PAYMENTS					
One Off Payments	2658	1654	2000	1039.46	2000
St Georges Day		530	2000	1667.92	2000
Fireworks	5716	11065	9000	4411.00	15000
Remembrance Day	577	960	500	0.00	1000
Xmas Event	5714	7010	2500	308.48	2500
Sovereign Events		10841	5000	6901.07	
Additional Events		428	500	2128.91	1000
NEW Commemorative Events				0.00	5000
TOTAL	14665	32488	21500	16456.84	28500
RECEIPTS					
One Off Payments	1159			33.34	
St Georges Day		667	500	957.89	1000
Fireworks	17511	33252	15000	633.32	15000
Xmas Event	841	1824	500	1025.77	2500
Sovereign Events		3458	3500	2207.23	
Additional Events		516	500	805.53	1000
NEW Commemorative Events					3000
TOTAL	19511	39717	20000	5663.08	22500

FITZMAURICE PARK/TOWN HALL	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	YTD	Budget 24/25
PAYMENTS					
Cleaning	767	141		455.92	1000
Cricket Maintenance	588	958	1000	0.00	
Electricity	6592	4366	6000	2629.05	6000
Field Maintenance Contract	7357	3569	7000	425.29	
Sports Turf Maintenance	330				
Park Maintenance	5496	3020	2500	1263.75	3000
Play Equipment Maintenance	17	171	1000	6.07	1000
Water rates	378	613	700	139.17	700
Wheeled/Litter/Dog Bins	1485	2412	2000	842.98	2000
Youth Shelter Maintenance		177	400	0.00	400
Tennis Court Maintenance			400		100
TOTAL	23010	15427	21000	5762.23	14200
RECEIPTS					
Field Maintenance Contract		3230		0.00	
Cricket Income	1907	2436	2000	157.50	150
Lettings	21362	16743	15000	5166.67	15000
Other Income	171	250		206.28	400
TOTAL	23440	22659	17000	5530.45	15550

GRANTS	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	YTD	Budget 24/25
PAYMENTS					
Payments	1770	1321		306.00	
TOTAL	1770	1321	0	306.00	0
RECEIPTS					
Receipts	1000	1767		1145.00	
TOTAL	1000	1767	0	1145.00	0

LEASES	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	YTD	Budget 24/25
PAYMENTS					
Payments	5562	4402	5200	2036.76	4100
TOTAL	5562	4402	5200	2036.76	4100

LEGAL FEES	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	YTD	Budget 24/25
PAYMENTS					
Legal Charges	11499	18498	8000	4049.87	8000
TOTAL	11499	18498	8000	4049.87	8000
RECEIPTS					
Receipts		15388		0.00	
TOTAL	0	15388	0	0.00	0

LOAN REPAYMENT	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	YTD	Budget 24/25
PAYMENTS					
Roxley Hall Loan	20269	18206	19435	9769.34	19018
Town Hall Loan	3894	3850	3806	1908.43	3762
River Green Lights	3566	3566	3566	1783.14	3566
TOTAL	27729	25622	26807	13460.91	26346

NEIGHBOURHOOD & TOWN PLAN	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	YTD	Budget 24/25
PAYMENTS					
Neighbourhood/Town Plan	1033	3750	1000	400.00	1000
TOTAL	1033	3750	1000	400.00	1000
RECEIPTS					
Neighbourhood/Town Plan		3330		0.00	
TOTAL	0	3330	0	0.00	0

NEWSLETTER	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	YTD	Budget 24/25
PAYMENTS					
Newsletter	2288	4431	2500	0.00	3000
TOTAL	2288	4431	2500	0.00	3000

RIVER GREEN	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	YTD	Budget 24/25
PAYMENTS					
Staithe Picnic Area	128			0.00	
Electricity	1719	1997	1500	1236.39	2500
River Green Maintenance	1511	1679	3000	617.43	3000
War Memorial Maintenance	4			0.00	
Rates (Toilets)	2027			0.00	
Electricity (Toilets)	1102	1231	1700	502.77	1700
Cleaning (Toilets)	4155	191	100	2419.74	7000
Water (Toilets)	1193	1524	800	814.18	1000
TOTAL	11839	6622	7100	5590.51	15200
RECEIPTS					
Electricity		1760		790.34	1000
Income	1291	713	1500	0.00	1500
Rates (Toilets)	2944			0.00	
TOTAL	4235	2473	1500	790.34	2500

ROXLEY HALL	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	YTD	Budget 24/25
PAYMENTS					
Cleaning	2028	560	500	2556.94	7000
Electricity	678	1025	1500	563.93	1500
Gas	1871	1587	2000	1011.82	2100
Miscellaneous	1619	865	500	15.42	200
Rates	4790	5546	6000	4635.54	5000
Water	496	305	500	237.02	500
Lettings		66			
Telephone	441	1614	500	195.00	500
TOTAL	11923	11568	11500	9215.67	16800
RECEIPTS					
Miscellaneous	114	78		0.00	
Lettings	7055	15491	12000	6933.05	14000
TOTAL	7169	15569	12000	6933.05	14000

S106 PAYMENTS & DONATIONS	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	YTD	Budget 24/25
PAYMENTS					
Section 106					
TOTAL	0	0	0	0.00	0
RECEIPTS					
Section 106		52458		0.00	
TOTAL	0	52458	0	0.00	0

S137 PAYMENTS & DONATIONS	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	YTD	Budget 24/25
PAYMENTS					
S137 Payments & Donations	50	550			450
TOTAL	50	550	0	0.00	450
RECEIPTS					
S137 Payments & Donations					
TOTAL	0	0	0	0.00	0

SALARIES	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	YTD	Budget 24/25
PAYMENTS					
A Salary, Employer NIC & Pension	46409				
B Salary, Employer NIC & Pension	5952				
C Salary, Employer NIC & Pension	4488				
D Salary, Employer NIC & Pension	115841				
E Salary, Employer NIC & Pension	15100				
F Salary, Employer NIC & Pension	566				
G Salary, Employer NIC & Pension		4423			
Student Loan	268	585	500	366.00	800
H Salary	22652	26184	27344	14709.48	31099
H Pension Employer	5386	6425	6563	3542.76	7153
H Employer NIC	1943	2575	2700	1452.78	3100
J Salary	18456	22208	22777	11388.48	24054
J Pension Employer	4337	5330	5466	2676.30	5532
J Employer NIC	1326	1912	2100	943.98	2300
K Salary	18456	22208	22777	11388.48	24054
K Pension Employer	4337	5330	5466	2676.30	5532
K Employer NIC	1326	1912	2100	943.98	2300
L Salary	9872	20259	22369	0.00	
L Pension Employer	2320	4862	5368	0.00	
L Employer NIC	752	1747	2100	0.00	
M Salary	14400	57600	47665	26745.03	48587
M Pension Employer			11440	645.08	11175
M Employer NIC			4800	274.21	4800
N Salary	18826	30324	31099	16909.98	34723
N Pension Employer	4424	7278	7464	3973.86	7986
N Employer NIC	1378	3090	3100	1705.92	3400
P Salary	5806	20141	21940	9403.02	20207
P Pension Employer			5266	0.00	4647
P Employer NIC	394	1614	2100	669.96	2000
Q Salary		5525	18000	9068.52	19484
Q Pension Employer		1326		2131.08	4481
Q Employer NIC		344		623.82	1900
R Salary		948	12696	6234.00	12526
R Pension Employer		228	3047	1465.02	2881
R Employer NIC		26	1200	232.68	1200
S Salary			12000	1667.33	12526
S Pension Employer				391.82	2881
S Employer NIC				0.00	1200
Salary Contingency			5000	0.00	5000
TOTAL	325015	254404	314447	132229.87	307528

SIR GEORGE MORSE PARK & PAVILION	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	YTD	Budget 24/25
PAYMENTS					
Cleaning and Cleaning Materials	10530	1760	2500	2545.29	7000
Electricity	4194	5267	5000	2173.38	5000
Equipment Hire	675	2490	2000	545.00	2000
Field Maintenance Contract	10654	10316	16000	7257.18	17000
Fuel	2144	2509	2200	1152.50	2300
Grounds Machinery Maintenance	4561	1280	3000	1352.82	3000
Materials Fixtures & Fittings	1832	883	1500	0.00	1000
Mileage	113			27.09	
Miscellaneous	836		500	0.00	500
Gas	954	1583	2000	288.62	1000
Park Maintenance	3280	1437	1500	1940.99	3500
Play Equipment Maintenance (COMBINE)	3371	444	2000	0.00	
Sports Turf Maintenance	1310			0.00	
Telephone	1369	1569	2000	271.29	600
Tools & Equipment	1130	1597	1000	486.25	1000
Training	2507	320		0.00	
Water Rates	922	1781	1600	797.90	1600
Wheeled/litter/dog bins	1908	2477	2300	853.82	2000
Football Maintenance	3233	663	2500	4043.00	5000
Rates	2470	2470	2500	2470.05	2500
Feed-In Tariff	1171	1273	1500	0.00	1500
Tennis Courts Maintenance	640		500	109.55	500
Health & Safety	2397	3147	2500	153.57	1000
Vehicle Maintenance	646	2940	1000	808.05	2000
TOTAL	62847	46206	55600	27276.35	60000
RECEIPTS					
Electricity		1380	2000	997.42	2000
Field Maintenance Contract		3230		0.00	
Fuel		50		25.00	
Gas	23			0.00	
Tools & Equipment		7109		333.33	
Football Income	7664	7362	10000	2428.33	8000
Lettings	4533	5400	5400	2250.00	5400
Rates		1494		0.00	
Feed-In Tariff	1171	1273	1500	548.95	1500
Telephone		10		0.00	
TOTAL	13391	27308	18900	6583.03	16900

STREET FURNITURE	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	YTD	Budget 24/25
PAYMENTS					
Cleaning bus shelters	1175	1695	1700	875.00	1800
Repairs and Maintenance		254	500	457.96	1000
Bus Shelter	385			0.00	
Memorial Donation	196	75		1279.95	
TOTAL	1756	2024	2200	2612.91	2800
RECEIPTS					
Memorial Donation	258	143.07		1006.65	
TOTAL	258	143.07	0	1006.65	0

STREET LIGHTING	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	YTD	Budget 24/25
PAYMENTS					
Energy Charge	23690	36698	25000	18831.91	38000
Maintenance Contract	4800	4800	7000	2000.00	6000
Repairs	12246	19152	12000	7260.00	15000
Structural Testing	3737				
TOTAL	44473	60650	44000	28091.91	59000

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	YTD	Budget 24/25
PAYMENTS					
Audit	1450	1425	2000	1815.00	2000
Bank charges	137	118	200	99.85	200
Mayors Expenses	182	409	300	16.20	300
Computer/Photocopier	132	850		-24.83	
Insurance	7921	8486	9000	9754.95	10000
Miscellaneous	540	441	250	118.03	250
Office equipment	174	940	1000	603.89	1500
Telephone	1473	1458	1200	1035.81	2000
Postage	764	26	250	155.67	250
Stationery	875	310	500	95.02	250
Subscriptions	4439	6059	5000	3558.76	5000
Training/H&S	895	2605	4000	3069.89	5000
Bottle Bank	60	130	100	111.60	200
Photocopy charges	841	1056	1200	311.52	1000
Rates	3393	3393	3400	3043.90	3400
HR Costs	3907	330	2000	798.10	2000
Uniform			500	582.31	1000
TOTAL	27183	28036	30900	25145.67	34350
RECEIPTS					
Mayors Expenses	15			0.00	
Miscellaneous	9	475	100	140.00	100
Subscriptions		1250		0.00	
Bank Charges		-1		0.00	
Bank Interest	49	953	100	1909.61	2000
Bottle bank	106	417	300	0.00	300
Telephone		14		0.00	
TOTAL	179	3108	500	2049.61	2400

TREE MANAGEMENT	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	YTD	Budget 24/25
PAYMENTS					
Tree Expenditure		9174	9000	800.00	9000
TOTAL	0	9174	9000	800.00	9000
RECEIPTS					
Tree Expenditure	40			0.00	0
TOTAL	40	0	0	0.00	0

VERGE CUTTING	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	YTD	Budget 24/25
PAYMENTS					
Fuel & Machinery Maintenance	1260	904	2500	1740.12	3500
Verge Cutting	5725	683	1000	257.71	1000
Equipment Hire	3950	4620	5000	2640.00	5300
TOTAL	10935	6207	8500	4637.83	9800
RECEIPTS					
Verge Cutting	17417	18845	19000	21370.23	22000
TOTAL	17417	18845	19000	21370.23	22000

WEBSITE	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	YTD	Budget 24/25
PAYMENTS					
Website Costs	660	1420	1000	625.00	1000
TOTAL	660	1420	1000	625.00	1000

YOUTH COUNCIL	Actual 21/22	Actual 22/23	Budget 23/24	YTD	Budget 24/25
PAYMENTS					
Payments	292		1000		1000
TOTAL	292	0	1000	0	1000



THORPE ST ANDREW TOWN COUNCIL

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP MEETING

Roxley Hall, Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, NR7 0QF Tel/Fax: (01603) 701048.

Email: office@thorpestandrew-tc.gov.uk

Notes of the meeting held 23rd October 2023

Present: Cllr F Bowe, Cllr S Snelling, Cllr J Fisher, Mr M Martins, Mr P Clarke, Andrea Long, Michelle Barron

Apologies from Mr J Clarke

Introduction with John Fisher

Cllr J Fisher welcomes everyone to the meeting. He explains that the Neighbourhood Plan has stalled due to Covid, but wants to confirm that we will not lose out on the higher level CIL from the large developments such as Brook Farm and Pinebanks, and that Broadland have agreed that TSATC will receive the 25%.

Inspectors Comments – Andrea Long (Compass Point Planning)

Andrea introduces herself and explains that it is common procedure for the examiner to ask a series of questions and that its not something that the council should be worried about. Examiners will want the plan to succeed and any questions are to help clarify or guide through certain areas.

Andrea will read through the examinuners questions for each policy individually and responses can be formulated and edited as we go through. Where relevant the group will also reference consultee comments. It is noted that a number of these do relate to car parking which does reiterate the need for provision.

Next stages of the process

The next stage of the process will be that the examiner will write the report. Initially this will be confidential, essentially for fact checking. Once it is agreed it is released publicly and Broadland will arrange the referendum. Once this technical stage has passed the plan will carry some weight. Andrea will type us and circulate the agreed responses which will be circulated by the CEO. These will need to be agreed and returned to Broadland by Friday 27th November.

Cllr J Fisher thanks the steering group. The CEO will make notes of this meeting to update the Full Town Council at the next meeting on 6th November 2023.

The General Power of Competence

Empowering councils to make a difference



Foreword



This paper is published at a critical time for local government. Councils have taken significant cuts to their funding during a period of economic austerity with yet more to come and face continued pressure

on funding alongside increased demand. Yet, as this paper demonstrates, through the use of the new General Power of Competence (GPC) they have sought to continue to deliver services efficiently and in new ways.

The Local Government Association (LGA) has been a driving force behind the introduction of a general power of competence; in March 2010 we presented a Draft Local Government (Power of General Competence) Bill to Parliament. This helped shape the Power that was introduced under the Localism Act 2011.

Although it has only been in place for a short time we have seen what councils can do when they are given greater freedom to make a difference.

Giving more power to local councils to enable them to make changes locally is vital if we are going to be able to design and deliver more efficient public services and help local areas innovate and, in particular, promote growth in their local area.

The LGA recently launched a new model for local government to address the question of democratic fairness and provide a blueprint for revitalising our democracy.

Entitled 'Rewiring Public Services', it contains ten key propositions that will radically transform local government and its relationship with Whitehall and Westminster.

What has become clear is that those working in local government agree we need a fundamental rethink about the current system, both to safeguard the future delivery of services and to make sure that local government is sustainable. The use of the General Power of Competence by councils in this paper shows that a new, locally led approach can yield positive outcomes and change for our communities.

However, despite the impressive examples in this paper, use of the General Power of Competence is limited by significant constraints set by central government. Local government needs far greater independence from central interference. The command and control, parent child relationship must be changed if local government is to be fully empowered to make a difference for local people.

But notwithstanding these constraints the GPC is an improvement on what we had before. I would therefore encourage councils up and down the country to make full use of the freedom it does give to innovate and think differently about how we can serve our communities.

Councillor Sir Merrick Cockell
LGA Chairman

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Key messages

These are challenging times for councils. They are playing a major part of the national deficit reduction plan. Grant to councils is being cut by 33 per cent in real terms during the four years of the Spending Review 2010 period, from April 2011 to March 2015. The spending review for 2015/16 continues the pressure to produce savings, with a reduction of 10 per cent in real terms of the grant going to local government. The continuing sluggish economy is putting further pressure on council's revenue streams and services.

In response to these factors, councils recognise that radical service transformation is required and that they have a key role to play in promoting and facilitating local economic growth. This difficult economic and financial environment presents both opportunities and barriers to the provisions included in the Localism Act 2011.

Among these provisions, the General Power of Competence (GPC) is an important legislative statement that councils have the power to do anything an individual may do, unless specifically prohibited. The GPC is welcomed across the sector, as a wider statement of their powers than the previous wellbeing powers. But to date it may be characterised as an evolutionary rather than a revolutionary change.

The LGA, on behalf of the sector, campaigned for a power such as the GPC. This was in recognition of the unique position of councils as locally elected bodies to act in the best interests of their communities, and their track record of delivering efficiencies and innovation and in providing good value for money. Further progress in such areas could have been at risk if the uncertainties around council's powers to act were to remain.

This paper explores whether councils have been taking advantage of the GPC since its introduction in February 2012, and if they have, how and to what purpose; if they haven't, why was this; the barriers councils may still be experiencing and any lessons which can be drawn. It is hoped that it will encourage wider use of the power by providing examples of how councils are using it to make a difference.

Using the power to innovate

Councils demonstrated innovation to meet community needs and financial pressures prior to the Localism Act 2011 and will continue to do so. Some councils believe they can bring about, and have in practice achieved, significant innovation using pre-existing powers. For other councils, the debate leading up to the Localism Act and the GPC itself has been an important spur to innovation.

There is wide recognition that the right mindset – an entrepreneurial approach, a willingness to take managed risks and ‘think outside of the box’ are at least as important as the existence of a power or otherwise in enabling innovation.

Giving greater confidence to change

Councils generally share the view that the GPC does give greater confidence to work in new ways, and develop new services and partnerships. It is also a symbolic statement which promotes innovation and frees up thinking, whether or not the power is used to provide the specific legal basis for the actions taken.

There are some indications that this growth in confidence may have been felt most by smaller councils – districts and town/parish councils rather than ‘upper tier’ councils which have enjoyed a wider range of powers and resources to begin with. There are examples of the use of the GPC in partnership across the different tiers of local government.

The GPC is also a challenge to the instinctive caution of some in local government, by clearly showing that just about anything is possible (unless specifically prohibited) and not constrained by the need to ensure that it is permitted by specific legislation. Members may see this as an opportunity to challenge the caution of some officers – even though the caution might nonetheless be valid. The GPC may provide statutory officers the assurance they require to endorse some more innovative and radical approaches.

Constraints on the use of the GPC

In addition to limited resources, councils report a number of constraints on the use of the GPC in practice.

- **Trading restrictions:** the types of company structures which may be employed in trading or other activities under the GPC are restricted to companies limited by shares or guarantee or industrial or provident societies. This prevents the use of community interest companies or similar, which councils may find more appropriate in some circumstances.
- **Charges** made under the GPC may only be made for discretionary services and should be set at a level which simply recovers costs and does not generate a profit or surplus, which limits the ability of the power to raise additional revenue.
- **Legal restrictions:** the need to check for pre- and post-commencement limitations can take time, and may lead to a more specific power being used anyway. The GPC does not extend the ability of councils to create byelaws or undertake enforcement.

It is important to recognise that the GPC is a means to an end. Councils do not – nor should they – seek out opportunities to apply the new power. Rather they should begin with what they want to achieve and then see if the GPC is a tool which will help them to get there.

If the power is used in this way, in support of reasonable and accountable decision making in line with public law principles, with an awareness of the remaining limitations on the power, then it should be robust and less susceptible to successful legal challenge such as those which gave rise to increased uncertainty around the application of the previous wellbeing powers in some situations.

Notwithstanding the constraints, there are encouraging signs that councils will continue to use the GPC, and take advantage of the environment for change which it is helping to foster, to deliver further innovation despite the unfavourable financial climate.

For the avoidance of doubt, this paper is not intended to nor does it constitute legal advice. Councils will need to obtain their own independent legal advice on any matters of a legal nature arising in connection with the General Power of Competence.





What is the General Power of Competence?

The General Power of Competence (GPC) was introduced by the Localism Act 2011 and took effect in February 2012. In simple terms, it gives councils the power to do anything an individual can do provided it is not prohibited by other legislation. It applies to all principal councils (district, county and unitary councils etc). It also applies to eligible¹ parish and town councils. It replaces the wellbeing powers in England that were provided under the Local Government Act 2000.

The scope – and some limitations – of the General Power are set out in sections 1 to 6 of the Localism Act 2011.

In summary, the GPC enables councils to do things²:

- an individual may generally do
- anywhere in the UK or elsewhere
- for a commercial purpose or otherwise, for a charge or without a charge
- without the need to demonstrate that it will benefit the authority, its area or persons resident or present in its area (although in practice councils will want to realise such benefits).

But there are some limitations on the General Power, either because they are not things which an individual can do or because they are excluded by the Act. The GPC will not:

- provide councils with new powers to raise tax or precepts or to borrow
- enable councils to set charges for mandatory services, impose fines or create offences or byelaws, over and above existing powers to do so
- override existing legislation in place before the Localism act 2011, so-called ‘pre-commencement limitations’ (however powers enacted after commencement of the GPC will only limit the GPC if this explicitly stated in the legislation).

Where using the GPC for charging or trading purposes, the recipient should agree to the service being provided, the income from charges should not exceed the cost of provision and, where things are done for commercial purposes, this must be done through a specified type of company.³

Notwithstanding the limitations outlined above, the GPC remains a broad power.

1 An eligible council is one which has resolved to adopt the GPC, with at least two thirds of its members being declared elected and the Clerk must hold an appropriate qualification (Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012).

2 Further discussion of the legal implications of the GPC can be found in the Local Government Association (LGA) essay ‘Power to make a difference’, October 2011: <http://tinyurl.com/nppcc4b>

3 Either as required by the Companies Act 2006 or a society registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies and Credit Unions Act 1965 or the equivalent in Northern Ireland.

As part of the Government's wider localism agenda, the GPC is intended not only to increase local authority powers but to give greater confidence in the scope of those powers and to signal that how those powers are used is a matter for local authorities (Department for Communities and Local Government, November 2011).

It should encourage more managed risk taking by councils. In enacting the GPC, the Government intended to remove the uncertainty which had arisen around the scope of the previous wellbeing powers – to promote the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of a council's area – where the courts had found that these powers did not enable councils to enter some arrangements such as a mutual insurance company across several councils – the so-called London Authorities Mutual Ltd (LAML) case in 2009⁴.

What is the GPC being used for?

Although at the time of writing the GPC has been in place for a little under a year and a half, since February 2012, it is still possible to discern some emerging patterns in how the power is being used. The key benefits of the GPC to councils can be summarised under the following headings:

Extending services and support into new areas

Stating that councils can do anything an individual can do (unless specifically prohibited) in legislation has given greater confidence to do new things and do things differently – the default setting is now 'yes

we can unless...' rather than 'we can't unless specifically permitted'. The ultra vires issue becomes less of a concern. For instance, the GPC has already given a number of councils the specific legal basis and confidence to extend their services and support beyond the arena traditionally seen as the responsibility of the authorities like them.

Oxford City – helping to tackle poor attainment in primary schools

The GPC has given Oxford City Council (a district council) the confidence to develop a school improvement support programme to raise attainment and assurance to statutory officers that it had the power to do so. The city council is thus making a contribution in an important service area previously regarded as the preserve of an upper tier council

Major local employers were concerned that local young people did not have the skills they require. Consultation with schools identified that the root of the problem lay in under achievement in primary schools, especially in the most deprived areas of the city. Working with the two local universities, good local schools and a specialist education consultancy, the city council has put in place a programme of improvement support for schools. The programme has two main elements – leadership and teaching skills – and represents an investment of £1.6 million over four years. For more information and contact details please refer to the case study included in the Annex to this report available at: www.local.gov.uk/localism-act

⁴ Brent LBC v Risk Management Partners Ltd and London Authorities Mutual Ltd and Harrow LBC as interested parties, Court of Appeal 2009 (which took a narrow view of the scope of wellbeing).

Parish and town councils, in particular, have found being eligible to adopt GPC (as outlined in the previous section) a major boost to their confidence to act and also that of their members in general. They have used the GPC to provide the basis for taking on responsibility for services previously provided by one of the principal authorities for the area, for example because these are being withdrawn as a result of financial pressures and a review of priorities. Clerks to town and parish councils have found it positive to be able to advise members that it is possible for their councils to do more things, where this is aligned to council and community priorities and at reasonable cost. Even when not used to support new services or innovation, it has saved time and resources in searching for more specific powers.



Parish councils – ensuring continuing youth service provision and improving community facilities

Adopting the GPC has given town and parish councils the confidence and power to take on additional services, including where principal authorities have had to reduce provision.

Crewkerne Town Council has taken over the running of youth clubs previously provided by Somerset County Council, to be offered through a purpose build sports and community centre.

Sprowston Town Council has acquired a former youth and community service building from Norfolk County Council which it is refurbishing to provide a multi-use community centre.

In both instances, the GPC gave councillors the power and confidence to act and the Town Clerks the assurance that they could recommend this course of action. These services were priorities for both councillors and the community. The GPC enabled Crewkerne to fund the youth service by avoiding the limitations on discretionary spend imposed by s137 of the Local Government Act 1972. Sprowston used other provisions in the Localism Act 2011 – the Community Right to Bid – to enable it to acquire the building from Norfolk County Council.

For more information and contact details please refer to the case study included in the Annex to this report available at: www.local.gov.uk/localism-act

A further area that has been stimulated by the GPC is councils leading on energy switching schemes (although some councils have proceeded with such schemes without explicit reference to the GPC).

Taking advantage of the buying power presented by bringing together residents from within their area and others, councils have been able to secure better energy deals for domestic users. Working with specialist energy switching companies, this is helping households to limit the costs of a major element of family budgets in difficult times, whilst securing reputational benefits for the authorities.

Estimates from some of the councils participating suggest savings of over £150 per household a year are possible.

One such scheme involves 12 councils from across the country, including Hertfordshire County Council and South Holland District council, which both cited GPC in support of the scheme. Over 8,500 households have participated in this particular switching initiative.

Regeneration and supporting the local economy in difficult times

A number of councils are finding the GPC helpful in building greater economic growth and resilience in their local communities, providing both a legal power on which to act and / or giving greater confidence to work in new and innovative ways.

Newark and Sherwood – thinking ‘BIG’ to help local businesses grow

For Newark and Sherwood District Council, the existence of the GPC gave a further stimulus for innovation and encouragement to think about doing new and different things.

The district is a growing community, with 14,000 new homes planned. It has many smaller businesses, which the council wants to help realise their growth potential. Consultation with local businesses and other stakeholders identified the availability of finance as a key challenge. The council therefore established a £2 million fund, financed by the New Homes Bonus. Called ‘Think BIG’ (Business Investment in Growth), the fund aims to provide loan finance to local businesses with growth potential, where they have not been able to secure the funding elsewhere such as from the banks. Acting on the advice of an independent panel of experts, following 20 applications, four loans have been made to date worth £285,000 in total. The average turnover of businesses supported is £672,500. These loans have safeguarded 40 jobs and there is the potential to create 43 new jobs.

Hertfordshire County Council has used the GPC to provide the basis for its participation in the Local Authority Mortgage Scheme (LAMS), working in partnership with most of the district councils in the county, Lloyds TSB and the Leeds Building Society.

The scheme is intended to support the local housing market and economy through help to first time buyers and key workers in particular. The scheme indemnifies lenders and enables buyers to access the terms of a 75 per cent mortgage with only a 5 per cent deposit, the balance of the funding coming from the indemnity scheme. The indemnity lasts for five years (the period of greatest risk) during which time the council earns interest on the amount of the indemnity.

The funding plus interest accrued is then returned to the council. Including £12 million from the county council, councils in Hertfordshire have made available £16.5 million in funding to the scheme. Begun in East Hertfordshire in March 2012, the scheme aims to help over 500 first time buyers into the housing market. Other councils reported that they had used the GPC as the basis of loans or grants to local employers to help secure jobs and support the wider local economy.

Delivering greater value for money

The GPC saves time on searching for more specific powers – making it easier for lawyers to say ‘yes’ given the existence of the GPC as a power of first resort. More importantly, it frees up time to think about should we do this, how best do we do it and how do we manage the risks – rather than expending time and effort on determining do we have the power to do this. However, councils still need to check that pre- and post-commencement limitations do not apply and adhere to established public law principles in decision making.

Several councils cited the broader definition of the General Power compared to the previous wellbeing powers (where it was necessary to identify a specific link to the economic, environmental or social wellbeing of the area) as providing a more secure legal basis for entering shared services or similar arrangements. It had reduced the uncertainty arising from previous litigation in this area, such as the LAML case. It is also important that the GPC gives private sector and other potential partners greater confidence in the validity of contractual and other relationships, reducing the risk that they will be declared void by the courts and supporting longer term partnerships.

Many councils stress that the GPC is a simpler power than those previously intended to help councils promote general wellbeing. The wellbeing powers in the Local Government Act 2000 required councils to demonstrate a link to the economic, environmental or social wellbeing of the area. The courts took a restrictive interpretation of this and ruled that it did not provide a basis for mutual and similar arrangements intended to reduce councils costs – such as the LAML case.

The GPC is much simpler than the earlier powers under s137 of the Local Government Act 1972, which covered activities ‘incidental to their functions’. This stated that ‘councils may incur expenditure which, in their opinion, is in the interests of and will bring direct benefit to, their area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants’. Moreover, such expenditure ‘had to be commensurate to the benefit arising’. For town and parish councils, there was a maximum amount for such spending which does not apply to the GPC⁵.

⁵ Set by DCLG at £6.80 per registered elector for 2012/13 in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972

Further innovative and other uses of the GPC

The GPC has the potential to counteract bureaucratic inertia and what can be the instinctive caution of local government in some cases, but it needs an entrepreneurial mindset to be given full effect. Some members see it as a tool to challenge officers' caution – this puts a responsibility on political leadership to make sure that councils take advantage of the GPC, alongside respect for the statutory officers' responsibilities to ensure sound, lawful decision making.

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead has established a Challenge Prize, endorsed by its Big Society Panel in September 2012, to promote innovative solutions by members of the community to problems identified by local residents.

A total of £20,000 has been allocated to support the challenge prize process. One council had used the GPC as the basis for supporting a successful legal challenge to the proposed closure of the Leeds Children's Heart Surgery Unit, which is outside that authority's own area.



Stoke City – sustainable energy and regeneration

Stoke on Trent City Council is using the GPC to provide the legal basis for the development of a range of initiatives to take forward the green energy agenda through a council owned holding company and to promote regeneration.

It sees access to sustainable energy at predictable prices as a powerful factor in attracting and sustaining employment including the development of a new central business district. The GPC gives greater confidence to both the council and potential partners from the private sector and elsewhere when entering into long term agreements. The council has provided a loan facility to help The Princes' Regeneration Trust access other sources of finance to restore the Middleport Pottery as part of a regeneration project.

For more information and contact details please refer to the case study included in the Annex to this report available at: www.local.gov.uk/localism-act

In April 2013, Birmingham City Council adopted a Living Wage for Birmingham policy, which extended the living wage to contractors to the council in support of the wellbeing of citizens, productivity and the wider city economy. The report to the city council's Cabinet included reference to the GPC as an enabling power for such action, although in this instance the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 was also important as this addressed what would have been 'pre-commencement limitations' on the GPC arising from the exclusion of non-commercial matters under the Local Government Act 1988.

Breckland and South Holland – increasing scope to apply the GPC

Breckland has recently used it (in conjunction with other legislation such as the Local Government Act 2003) to provide the legal justification for a scheme to charge for the provision of new and replacement wheeled bins. Both councils see scope for further use of the power.

Breckland and South Holland District Councils have a shared management team and see increasing scope to apply the GPC. Breckland's policy to charge for the provision of new and replacement wheeled bins is intended to both help recover the costs of the service and to promote further re-cycling. They needed to design the scheme so that the council retained ownership of the bins to best manage the waste management stream whilst still securing users agreement to a discretionary service.

Both councils have participated in energy switching schemes. There will be increasing scope to apply the GPC as the councils develop radical transformation plans in response to the challenging financial environment and both will continue to foster the entrepreneurial approach from members and officers that this will require. For more information and contact details please refer to the case study included in the Annex to this report available at: www.local.gov.uk/localism-act

These examples from both Birmingham and Breckland illustrate the important observation from a number of councils that the GPC is not used in isolation – it is often used in conjunction with other powers to achieve wider policy objectives, including other provisions in the Localism Act 2011.

A number of councils referred to the GPC as the basis for making grants to voluntary and other organisations and other instances where it was used in place of the previous wellbeing powers.

Building on existing innovation

Local government has a track record of innovation, which pre-dates the introduction of the General Power of Competence. A significant proportion of councils interviewed, which had implemented new and innovative ways of doing things, cited this as the reason for not having used the GPC in their decision making processes. Essex County Council, for example, provided a local authority banking service and supported post offices and provided library services to another authority prior to the Localism Act.

Similarly, Woking Borough Council had used the wellbeing powers under the Local Government Act 2000 and earlier powers to establish the Thamesway Group of holding companies to take forward a range of green energy and sustainable and development projects on behalf of the borough.

Councils that had not used the GPC stressed the importance of the right mindset in being innovative – a willingness to 'think outside of the box'. Taking managed risks and an entrepreneurial approach are more important than the existence or otherwise of a particular power to do something. In other words, organisational culture is key. If you want to do something, the business case is in place and it aligns with the council's priorities and those of the community, you can usually find a legal power to do it.

Notwithstanding this, all councils interviewed welcomed the introduction of the GPC through the Localism Act 2011 and most envisaged they would use the power in future. Many described the GPC as a symbolic ‘can do’ power which confirms that councils can do just about anything they wish to do – provided it is not illegal and is the right thing to do for their communities. This had been factored into their thinking, without necessarily citing the GPC during decision making processes.

Richmond – how the GPC is encouraging further innovation

The London Borough of Richmond provides an example of a council which has undertaken a number of innovative, community focussed projects, encouraged by the GPC as a ‘can do’ power which gives implicit permission to fresh thinking.

The GPC has enabled a shift in focus from ‘can we do this?’ to concentrate on ‘should we do this and how best to realise our objectives?’ which is a much more creative environment. Richmond wants to further encourage civic pride and citizen engagement. It has introduced a scheme to offer Civic Pride grants to individuals in addition to constituted groups and is making Empty Shop Grants for short term, community use of empty shops to both boost creativity and entrepreneurial activity and enliven high streets.

For more information and contact details please refer to the case study included in the Annex to this report available at: www.local.gov.uk/localism-act

Existing legislation such as the Local Government Act 2003 has provided sufficient powers for several councils to have established local authority trading companies to provide adult social services in accordance with the personalisation agenda. Section 75 of the Health Act 2006 has provided sufficient flexibility to share funding and enable joint working between health and social care, where the will to work in close partnership exists, for example the establishment of Care Trust Plus in North East Lincolnshire.

A number of councils referred to the need to search for any pre-commencement limitations on the GPC when seeking to establish the legal basis for a proposed action. In such circumstances, when a more specific power exists, some councils preferred to cite this as a stronger basis for action. In one instance, where a transfer of land and planning powers from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) was sought by Milton Keynes Council, amendments to primary legislation were required and the GPC was clearly insufficient in this case.

Councils and key partner organisations are developing new delivery models with support from the Government, such as using Social Impact Bonds and mutual organisations which are not wholly reliant on the GPC.

It can be seen that some councils have already done things that others are now doing with the support of the GPC. If the power extends the willingness to innovate and the confidence to do so to more councils, and helps embed a culture of change across the sector, that will be no small thing.

Scope for further use of the GPC

Notwithstanding the constraints identified above and the financial challenges which councils will continue to face, almost all councils contacted, whether using the General Power already or not, envisage using the power in future.

Beyond continuing current applications and use in place of the previous wellbeing powers, councils do see potential for new uses of the power. For example, to extend trading beyond an authority's own area and the use of social enterprise models – although this will require the constraints around permitted company models (and possibly state aid) to be thought through. They may well focus on gaps in the existing market or other aspects of market failure.

It may assist in further developing the cooperative council models under consideration in some areas, and in councils' efforts to reinvigorate economic growth. It could support efforts to engage citizens in taking on more civic and community responsibilities, with some limited assistance from councils.

Some councils are considering 'Innovation Plans' and transformation strategies to help meet the challenges of protecting key services and outcomes in times of increasing financial pressures. The GPC is seen as an important 'tool in the box' to help such innovation, although by its very nature the details of such use cannot be predicted at this time. However, it is likely to become more widely used as more councils recognise its potential.

Constraints on the wider use of the GPC

While welcoming the GPC, a number of councils noted some constraints which had or could present barriers to its wider use. The main issues identified were:

- **The need to use company structures as specified in the Localism Act 2011** – when using the GPC as the basis for trading activities a limited number of company structures are permitted, namely companies limited by shares or guarantee or industrial or provident societies. Several councils and a Fire and Rescue Service have wished to extend their services using more modern community interest company structures – for example to achieve more community engagement or to develop governance structures further removed from the political arena for commercial reasons. They believe such structures would not meet the requirements of the Localism Act to exercise the GPC in this way, and hence have used different powers in order to proceed. A number of commentators argue that in the area of trading and commercial activities, the GPC has not moved much beyond what was already possible under the Local Government Act 2003. The National Association of Local Councils – NALC – does not agree that the Localism Act 2011 gives effect to DCLG's intention to extend the power to trade to town and parish councils. NALC recommends that town and parish councils wishing to pursue a trading activity seek independent legal advice.

- **Charging only permitted for a discretionary service and on a cost recovery basis** – the GPC can only be used as basis for charging for a discretionary service – ie not one which it is required to provide by statute or otherwise. The potential service user must be able to decline the service and so avoid the charge. The GPC is subject to a duty that, taking one year with another, charges do not exceed the costs of provision⁶. In other words, any charges should be set at a level which does not generate a profit or surplus, although it is recognised that more than one financial year may need to be taken into account.
- **Limitations on the use of state aid** – in terms of both undertaking trading activities and in supporting local business and employment in difficult economic times. Councils have realistic expectations that, due to wider policy considerations and EU rules, these limitations will remain in place. But it does mean that care is required to keep within these limits, which may have more bearing in regenerating deprived communities where more support is required to ‘de-risk’ development projects.
- **The need to check for pre- and post-commencement limitations** – this takes time and often leads to the identification of a more specific power which is used in place of the GPC anyway. Some councils suggested that there is a case to rationalise the large body of legislation affecting local government. Where common barriers are identified it may be appropriate for the Secretary of State to use his powers under s5 of the Localism Act 2011 to amend, repeal, revoke or disapply such provisions.
- **Does not enable the creation of byelaws or enforcement activity** – a number of people, including some elected members, had anticipated that the General Power would allow this. As enacted, the GPC does not permit this as it simply extends councils powers to do what individuals normally can do. Many councils have provided briefing sessions on the implications of the Localism Act 2011 for leading members and senior officers which have quickly clarified this misunderstanding. It is generally felt that those who need to know are familiar with the extent of the General Power and can advise elected members and other officers on how best to achieve the council’s agreed objectives.
- **The GPC has been introduced at a time of severe financial constraints** – councils’ attention had been focused on the need to manage major budget reductions and so where the GPC has been used it has often been to minimise the impact of spending cuts or support improved efficiency. More creative use of the GPC – to widen councils’ responsibilities – may be limited at this time because of local priorities, although developing economic resilience and growth emerges as a clear theme in its early use. Some councils found that other provisions of the Localism Act have attracted greater interest among elected members, officers and the wider public, such as the Community Right to Challenge and the Community Right to Bid for assets of community value and the associated asset register.

⁶ Sec 3 (3) of the Localism Act 2011

Making good use of the GPC – top tips

The experience of councils making use of the General Power suggests the following guidelines for its effective use:

- ✓ Be clear about what you want to achieve – and that this is aligned with the priorities of the council and local community. The GPC is not an end in itself, merely a means to an end.
- ✓ Develop and support an environment which promotes an innovative and entrepreneurial approach.
- ✓ Recognise the potential of the GPC as a lever to tackle excessive caution or fixed ways of doing things.
- ✓ Check for any pre-and post-commencement limitations (and consider modifying the approach where necessary).
- ✓ Where used as a basis for charging, ensure that charges are not being made for a statutory service, that the recipient agrees to receive the discretionary service and charges are on a cost recovery basis.
- ✓ Consider implications of different company structures and state aid provisions as appropriate.
- ✓ Parish Councils should ensure they meet the conditions for eligibility as set out in the Statutory Instrument, Parish councils (General Power of Competence) Prescribed Order 2012.





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