

Saffron Walden Town Council ensures that the Council delivers value for money

Adopted December 2023 - FC 197-23

Review date - October 2026

Saffron Walden Town Council confirms by resolution that it delivers value for money, this is shown by:

- Setting an action plan and priorities in line with the budget.
- Setting ear-marked reserves to budget for future projects and priorities.
- Providing regular community events for FREE to ensure families can enjoy an affordable day out.
- Maintaining free public open space and communal green outdoor areas.
- Maintaining free public toilets.
- Provision of small grants and free of charge hall hire which are available for community groups, clubs and organisations to provide activities for Saffron Walden.
- Consistently increased the Council's commercial activities to reduce the cost of Council services to taxpayers
- Stream-lined the Council, reducing overtime and refining long term planning and maintenance to lower the Council's costs of delivery
- Optimised the Council's assets to ensure that we maximise community usage and revenue generation
- Focussed on greatly improving the services we provide to the public within a vet disciplined financial framework.



Saffron Walden Town Council provides leadership in planning for the future of its community

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Saffron Walden Town Council confirms by resolution that it provides leadership in planning for the future of its community, this is demonstrated by:

- Creating and finalising the neighbourhood plan, which has been adopted by the local planning authority, Uttlesford District Council. The plan was prepared by councillors and members of the public who undertook several public consultations. The plan also includes aspirations for the future of Saffron Walden.
- Liaising with Uttlesford District Council officers on a regular basis to ensure planning applications put the needs of the residents first. Examples include proposed development designs, S106 contributions, public open space provisions and maintenance, suitable drainage system maintenance and highway schemes.
- Liaising with the highway authority, Essex County Council to ensure suitable traffic regulations are put in place. Examples of discussions include submission of local highway panel applications; road closures and improved pedestrian and cycle schemes.
- Engaging with all stakeholders for planning applications, as agreed within SWTC's adopted planning engagement policy.
- Complying with SWTC's adopted developer contributions policy, promoting the need for suitable community provision.
- Promotion of SWTC's adopted developer contribution wish list, detailing the muchneeded provisions required for the future of the Town. Including recreational facilities, burial land, sustainable transport measures and more.
- SWTC's Planning and Transport committee continues to respond to planning applications as a consultee and deal with transport and highway issues accordingly.



Engages with the community on issues related to the environment and climate change

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Saffron Walden Town Council confirms its continual engagement with the community on environmental and climate change issues, examples include:

- Adoption of: Climate change policy, climate emergency action plan, environmental initiatives and environmental policy statement. Each are regularly reviewed.
- Supporting the National *Big Green Eco Week* and hosting an Eco-Market to promote reusable products and raise awareness on climate change.
- Promotion of National Clean Air Day with a focus on how the Operations Team runs more environmentally friendly. (A range of battery-operated equipment to replace those diesel and fuel based and electric vans.)
- Council events and activities are and will continue to be relayed and advertised with the public using social media and print, this is in accordance with our engagement policy.



Manages the performance of the council as a corporate body

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Saffron Walden Town Council manages the Council's performance as a corporate body by:

- Completing its annual governance and accountability return, accounts and year end
- Appointing an internal auditor
- Working in line with all legislation including employment laws and data protection
- Appointing a human resources and health and safety advisor
- Regular staffing performance reviews and one to one catch ups with all employees
- Monitoring and reviewing the business plan



Manages the performance of each individual staff member to achieve its business plan

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SWTC confirms it manages the performance of each individual staff member to achieve its business plan by assigning individuals with their own individual priorities, these work toward the business plan.

Individual performances are monitored and regularly and reviewed in line with our Personal Development Plan and Performance Management Procedure.