

Yellow = new activities for 2026-27

Objective: Commerce, Business & Tourism To promote the town and its activities and interest as a place to do business. To encourage visitors to the town through promotion and publicity. To actively engage with decision makers such as businesses.					Timeline and Budget			Update	Funded by				Area	NP Policy
Item	Activities	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Staff / Resources	Due Date(s)	Budget	5 years + Y / N		CIL	EMR	Grant	Precept	BTC / BFCT / Both	Y / N
1. Beccles Quay Development of new community facilities and the improvement of existing ones	a) Create a Full Business Plan for The Quay including the actions and schemes which the local community considers important as listed in the Beccles Neighbourhood Plan.	DCSP Committee	BA	Office Staff Consultant	Start 2023 Complete 2023	£2k for consultant	N	a Quay Development Group launched Spring 24. Group agreed list of potential improvements / activities for 2025. Group now suspended for Summer 2025. List of items being taken forward has been circulated to group members – includes electricity to Quay field (on hold due to EA flood risk permit required) and replacement of coloured lights (completed). Development Committee to consider Business Plan for Quay Summer26. b Engineer reviewed building Oct23. Monitoring of building for structural soundness now underway. A&E awaiting results of structural survey before deciding how to proceed July26. c Quay headings on north side repaired in 2023. Electricity project – on hold due to EA flood risk permit requirement. Project should be completed by Summer 2026. d Boards on Marsh Trail installed Nov25. Stencil trail leaflet available from April 26. e DCSP considered Autumn 25. Revisit in 2026.			Investigate		BFCT	Y
	b) Restart the project to upgrade Toilet Block.	A & E Committee	BA	Office Staff Professional advice	Restart 2023 Complete 2025	£100,000 min	N				Investigate		BFCT	
	c) Continue with the planned project regarding moorings, electricity on north side, lighting.	DCSP Committee		Office Staff	Started 2022 Complete 2025/26	£40k	N						BFCT	
	d) Create Information Stations (Info. regarding local ecology, history and culture) – Cross reference with the other areas within the strategic plan.	DCSP Committee	Local and national organisations e.g. Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Broads Authority, Beccles and District Museum	Office Staff	Start 2023 Complete 2024	£10k	N						BFCT	
	e) Consider a Visitor Centre for Quay	DCSP Committee												

2. Town Centre	a) Create a Town Centre Business Plan, including the actions from the Neighbourhood Plan that the local community considers are important (Including a town trail).	DCSP Committee Vibrant Beccles Working Party	BBTA, ESC	Office Staff Consultant	Start 2023 Complete 2023	£3k for consultant	N	a Consultant engaged July 2023, report received Oct23. Business Plan not progressed.					BTC	Y
	b) i Create a Town Centre Management Team and consider appointing a Town Centre Manager using grant money available via ESC. ii Consider how to help viability of town centre.	DCSP Committee	BBTA, ESC	Office Staff	Started 2022 (Initial email to ESC re funding)	£10k for 10 hours per week (if no funding from ESC)	N	b ii Vibrant Beccles Working Party set up Nov24. 2 meetings held early 2025. Group relaunched March 2026. Meeting agreed actions to engage with business community, including initial Business Breakfast May 2026. Two meetings held to date.	ESC				BTC	Y
	c) Actively promote and encourage more town centre events, such as specialist markets, entertainers, street vendors (as at, for example, the Christmas late night shopping event).	DCSP Committee	BBTA, ESC, Food Festival, local businesses	Office Staff; ideas from local councils	Start 2023	£5k	N	c Budget allocation for events agreed as part of 26-27 TC budget. Working with external operator to plan potential joint specialist market events for Autumn / winter 2026/27.					BTC	N
	d) Review signage (including finger posts) to town attractions.	DCSP Committee	BBTA	Office Staff	Start 2023	£5k	N	d Review of wider town centre pedestrian signage drafted by DCSP July26. Town centre maps replaced Spring26 and accompanying leaflet produced.						
	e) Town Council to take over lead role for promoting tourism, including managing 'Visit Beccles' brand (website and social media)							e 'Visit Beccles' Instagram set up early 24; needs to be developed. Audit of 'Visit Beccles' website (funded by ESC) reported back to Development in May26. Budget allocation for tourism support in 26-27 TC budget agreed. Additional funding of £10k from East Suffolk agreed, to include enhanced photography and two screens for Visitor Information Points.						
3. Accommodation	a) Investigate with ESC and SCC if there are any schemes that actively encourage more overnight	DCSP Committee	ESC, BBTA, SCC	Office Staff	Start 2024		N	No progress to date. a) Town Clerk to write to Cllr Topping to ask what support ESC can					BTC	Y

	tourist accommodation in local towns. b) Support planning applications for change of use to Class C1 (hotels), subject to review of the PH Committee to ensure compliant with all the necessary material planning considerations.	PH Committee	ESC, BA		Ongoing			provide with shortage of hotel accommodation							
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Objective: Community and Well Being – To improve and enhance existing facilities and explore any new ones that would support the community and promote health and wellbeing. Working with wider stakeholders in the future specifically on published provisions for Beccles in the WLP and NP.					Timeline and Budget			Update	Funded by				Area	NP Policy
Item	Activities	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Staff / Resources	Due Date	Budget	5 years + Y / N		CIL	EMR	Grant	Precept	BTC / BFCT / Both	Y / N
2 Development of the Marsh Trails	a Introduce a Fitness/Trim trail b Include nature and wildlife notice boards c Upgrade general signage and maps	Development Committee	BTC / BFCT Suffolk Wildlife Trust Broads Authority Local sports groups/businesses	Office staff Consultant?	2023	15,000	N	a Installed 2024 b and c Information boards and signage installed Nov25.	?		?		BFCT	
3. Community Facilities	a Review leisure and community facilities and consult with the public on any gaps. b Awareness of the NP policy noting lack of facilities especially for a youth space/ activities.	Development Committee Youth Champions Clerk & office	BTC ESC SCC Other local groups	Office staff Consultant	2024		N	Use of TC CIL Fund likely to be needed to extend / improve existing TC/BFCT assets, rather than for new projects. Unlikely that money can be drawn down from main District CIL fund to support large projects in Beccles until planning granted for Garden Neighbourhood Project. Update Beccles Neighbourhood Plan? Government funding now withdrawn so this may be costly.					Both	Y BECC2
4. Community volunteering	a Support local community volunteering groups and encourage grant applications where applicable. b Continue to support Community Gardeners and Bombls who enhance the town's appearance.	Full Council Clerk's office Grants Committee Beccles in Bloom	BTC / BFCT Community Gardeners Bombls	Office staff	On-going	Grant budget / BIB		a Voluntary Organisations' showcase has now run for 3 years. b Excellent working relationship with Community Gardeners.					Both	N
5 Seating and waste provisions at all open space sites	a Carry out review and list out provisions at Waveney Meadow, the Common and the Quay and provide report to Development committee to consider content.	Clerk's office Development Committee Assets & Estates	BTC / BFCT		2023			Council has purchased cicv.ly asset management software July26. Implementation Summer / Autumn 26.						N
6 Accessible options to our open spaces for	a Ensure accessibility options are considered with	All	All		Up to 2027									N

all ages and mobility	any enhancement or updates to our open spaces.												
7 Community Orchard/Gardens	a Stage 1: Visit and research other Community orchards/gardens in local area or further afield to gather findings on how they operate and are run. Present the feedback to the Development Committee. b Consult with the public/local groups as appropriate on our ideas based on the research gathered. c Write a business plan for the long term future and consider funding/grants as necessary. Project abandoned in order to facilitate use of site by Scouts & Guides.	Development Committee Eco Champion	BTC Local community groups	Office staff Consultant?	1. 2023 2. 2024 3. 2024	300	N	Work on preparing site nearing completion July26.					N
8 Improved services for those suffering with mental health or loneliness	Work with ESC Community Partnership to identify possible projects for 2026-27.		ESC Community Partnership members.		2026-27								
Community Facilities (NP)	aConsider and support suitable proposals to bring back into active use disused facilities in the town centre, including shops/toilets.	Planning Committee	BTC ESC SCC BBTA	N/A	Up to 2027	N/A						BTC	Y BECC2
LONG-TERM ITEMS	(BEYOND THE FIVE-YEAR TERM OF THIS PLAN)												
Community Hub in Beccles & Worlingham Garden Neighbourhood	Required by the WLP Policy WLP3.1, the new development is expected to include provision for a community centre, as per the BECC1 criteria.		BTC ESC Worlingham Parish Council		2027		Y	This is now more likely to be a sport-related building, as Worlingham have an existing project for a Community Centre.				BTC	Y BECC1
Community Facilities (NP)	A Multi-Use Games area at the B&WGN			N/A			Y					BTC	Y BECC2
Community Facilities (NP)	Indoor play facility			N/A			Y						Y BECC2
Community Facilities (NP)	Expansion of Beccles library			N/A			Y					BTC	Y BECC2
Community Facilities (NP)	Indoor swimming pool			N/A			Y						Y BECC2
Medical Provision in Beccles	The NP Policy BECC8 provides support for expansion and improvement of medical facilities at		BTC ESC Beccles Medical Centre	N/A			Y	Medical centre have obtained funding from district council CIL fund for				BTC	Y BECC8

	Beccles Medical Centre to meet needs of existing and proposed new residents in the future. The provision of enhanced social care will also be supported.		CCG						expansion of facilities at site.						
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Notes:
Beccles Neighbourhood Plan Made Version Sept 2021
Beccles Town Centre Forward Framework February 2021

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Objective: Culture and Heritage To develop and maintain the Council's historic assets and promote and celebrate the town's heritage and culture					Timeline and Budget			Update	Funded by				Area	NP Policy
Item	Activities	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Staff / Resources	Due Date(s)	Budget	5 years + Y / N		CIL	EMR	Grant	Precept	BTC / BFCT / Both	Y / N
1. Develop the Council's historic built assets to ensure fitness of purpose while retaining key historic features	a) i) Assess the requirements of the Town Hall to ensure that it is suitable for its core purposes and that its carbon footprint is reduced as much as possible. ii) Draw up a development plan iii) Implement the plan	Council Working Party A & E Committee	Councillors Office Staff	Office Staff	Aug 2023 Oct 2023 Dec 2024		N	a i Review of Town Hall recommended solar panels, but planning permission not possible. a ii A&E received report from contractor to review carbon footprint of council buildings.					BTC	N
	b) i) Assess the development needs of Blyburgate Hall and the former Ambulance Station as venues for cultural activities and to ensure that their carbon footprint is reduced as much as possible. ii) Draw up a development plan iii) Implement the development plan	DCSP Committee A & E Committee	Current and potential users	Office Staff	Aug 2023 Sep 2023 Sep 2024			b i A&E investigating potential for solar panels at this location, dependent on usage by Thirst. Feasibility being investigated July26.						
	c) i) Draw up a continuous maintenance plan for the Town Hall and Blyburgate Hall and the former Ambulance Station. ii) Consider employment of a caretaker/handyperson to facilitate operation of the assets and routine maintenance.	A&E Committee A&E Committee Personnel Committee		Office Staff	Oct 2023 Oct 2023	£10k		c Not yet started				Y		
	d) Improve insulation in Blyburgate Cottage to meet government requirements for 2025 2030.	A&E Committee	Cottage Tenant	Office Staff	Dec 2023	£5k		d Further insulation works may be needed.			Possibly	Y		
2. Promote the history and heritage and	a) i) Investigate with relevant stakeholders how the history and heritage of	Council Working Party with representatives from:	Local heritage and history	Office Staff	May 2023		N	a ii Working Party created plan, which					Both	Y

the special character of Beccles for the benefit of residents and visitors	Beccles can be celebrated and promoted more such as through Heritage Open Days, the re-establishment of the Charter Weekend, historic trails (e.g. of The Beccles Society plaques) and use of QR codes. ii) Draw up a development plan iii) Implement the plan	Beccles & District Museum The Beccles Society Helping Hands U3A history groups BBTA Other relevant stakeholders	organisations and groups					was approved by full council Jan24. a iii 13 'Heritage Open Days' events happened in September 2024 and 2025. Programme for 2026 published, including joint promotion with Halesworth and Bungay. Revamp of 'Town Trail' leaflet being worked on – awaiting map and printing cost July26.							
	b) i) Investigate how cultural events (including art, music and drama) could celebrate and enhance the special character of Beccles ii) Draw up a development plan iii) Implement the plan	Council Working Party with representatives from: Beccles Choral Society Beccles Society of Artists U3A groups BBTA Other relevant stakeholders	Local cultural organisations and groups	Office Staff	Oct 2023 Dec 2024 Feb 2024										
	c) i) Liaise with Bungay and Halesworth to assess the potential for joint promotions of history and culture ii) Draw up a development plan iii) Implement the plan	As above	Bungay Town Council Halesworth Town Council Heritage and cultural organisations and groups	Office Staff	Feb 2024 Sep 2025 Apr 2024 July 2024 Dec 2026			b Working Group set up. Initial meeting with cultural groups held Oct24. Second meeting to draw up calendar of events and avoid clashes Nov24. How to take this forward? c Joint marketing with Bungay & Halesworth for HoD produced for 2024 and again for 2025.							
3. The Bell Tower	a) Investigate how the history of the Bell Tower, can be made more available, including through improved information on display and leaflets for adults and children. b) Draw up a development plan c) Implement the plan	B Darch and members of the Saturday Bell Tower volunteers.	Local heritage and history organisations and groups, Beccles and District Lions	Office Staff	Feb 2025 Mar 2025 May 2025		N	Cllr Darch is reviewing the information available for visitors.						BTC	Y
4. Improve the conservation area in the centre of Beccles, so that it is	a) i) Agree a plan to enhance Exchange Square ii) Implement the plan b) i) Examine how other conservation areas in	DCSP Committee A&E Committee Working Party	ESC, BBTA, The Beccles Society	Office Staff Office Staff	May 2023 May 2024 Sep 2024		N N	a i Plan agreed early 2023 ii Repair of shelter carried out April 2023 by ESC (roof repaired, benches						BTC	Y

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Objective: Environment To increase the town's environmental sustainability, including encouraging biodiversity, reducing pollution and waste and working to reduce the Council and Trust's carbon footprint.					Timeline and Budget			Update	Funded by				Area	NP Policy
Item	Activities	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Staff / Resources	Due Date(s)	Budget	5 years + Y / N		CIL	EMR	Grant	Precept	BTC / BFCT / Both	Y / N
1.. Increase public awareness of positive actions that can be taken to reduce environmental harm and promote good examples	a) Identify and promote 'exemplar' projects demonstrating good practice. b) Work with partner organisations to identify examples of good practice. c) Use Council communication channels to promote ideas	A&E Committee Eco Champions Climate Change Conference Working Party	Public	Office Staff	2024 and ongoing	From Events budget 2025-6	N	Working groups following on from 2025 conference now underway.					BTC	N
2. Make Council Trust assets ecologically responsible	a) i) Identify the current carbon footprint of the Council and Trust activities and buildings. Include for example details not limited to, levels of insulation, draught proofing, glazing and heating and lighting. ii) Provide a plan to demonstrate how we intend to reduce of our carbon footprint e.g., include recommendations where new measures could be installed or where energy efficient measures could replace the current. b) Always consider the most energy efficient materials and alternative power sources in the future e.g., solar and heat pumps.	A&E Committee Eco Champion		Office staff External consultant?	2023-24 2024 2023 Ongoing	£5k	N (but will be ongoing after 2027)	a. A&E has received review of carbon footprint of council buildings. A&E to agree to fund carbon reducing measures in council and trust buildings? b. Options investigated Spring 2024. No progress yet on changes to energy systems in any council buildings.			Y	Y	Both	N
3. Recycling, repair and waste reduction	a) Review waste contracts and look to maximise recycling of waste from Council and Trust sites.	A&E Committee Eco Champion	Contractors Suppliers	Office staff	From 2023	£1000pa for additional waste disposal costs?	N	a Increased obligation for separating waste for businesses applies from April 2027. Options				Y	Both	N

		DC Committee Broads Authority	Contractor	Office staff	Late 2025	Up to £3,000 from CIL agreed		being investigated July27.						
4. Increase tree, shrub and other ecologically beneficial planting on Trust and council land and across other open spaces	a) Identify areas for tree planting where this will contribute to wildlife corridors and help to take up flood water. b) Manage ditches around areas of restored marsh north of the bypass. c) Monitor the area of soil dredged from Gas Dyke spread on the land on the North side of the quay to ensure growth of wildflower habitat and consider appropriate planting in the future. d) Include new information boards where appropriate.	A&E Committee BIB Committee Eco Champion	U3A volunteers, Community Gardeners, Wildfowlers, Contractors as appropriate	Office staff Potential new member of staff	Ongoing 2024? Ongoing 2024 onwards		N	a Ranger to work with volunteers to assess. No progress yet. b ongoing c This area has not worked and A&E Committee may need to consider how to address this. Ranger to consider use of Waveney Meadow 'cut' material to seed this area at Quay. d. no progress to date.					Both	N
5.. Water Management	a) Support the Environment Agency with their ongoing responsibility for the Beccles Flood Risk Management Project (BFRMP). i) Participate in the Beccles Flood Risk Partners Organisation (BFRPO) ii) Work with EA to create a Beccles Community Flood Response Group b) Investigate drainage issues on the rugby field sites and agree appropriate solutions. c) Completion of Flood Risk Asset Management Survey currently ongoing with WMA	A&E Committee	EA, SCC, BA, ESC (Norse) Public, WMA, AW	Office Staff	Ongoing 2022 2023 2023	£10-15k £5k		a Clerk and Mayor attended conference Sept23 and meetings with residents of Fen Lane & EA have taken place. Awaiting outcome of EA bid for improved flood management infrastructure. b Ongoing; Awaiting work to infill part of this ditch to raise water level and improve flow July26.					Both	

6. Promote biodiversity and rewilding of appropriate areas of Trust and Council land	a) Encourage an increase in biodiversity at the Common through sympathetic management. b) Maintain and encourage rewilding of Little Wembley. c) Ranger to produce management plan for each green space, including Marsh Trail, to be reviewed by A & E Committee	A&E Committee Eco Champion	U3A volunteers Public as users of the sites	Office staff Potential new member of staff	Ongoing Ongoing 2023-24	Dependent on hours but potentially c£14k pa	N	a Informal advice received from Suffolk Wildlife Trust 2023. Ecologist engaged to provide advice on management plan July26. b Some planting has happened Oct24. c. To be pursued in 2026-27.				Y	BFCT	N
7.. Revamp Waveney Meadow to ensure it remains both a recreation area and a wildlife haven	a) Work with Townlands Trust to refurbish site, including restoring riverbank and improving paths. b) Develop clear plan for areas to be allowed to grow and encourage suitable additional planting. c) Include new information boards d) Consider ways to consult with public on plans for the site.	Working Party Full Council Eco Champion	Townlands Trust, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, BA, Public as users of the site	Office staff	2023-25	Dependent on costings and contribution from Townlands Trust; £10k 2023-24; £100k 2024-25	N	a Working Party has drawn up plans for refurbishing site. Play equipment being installed July26. b In Phase 2. Ranger to be included in discussions by Working Party going forward. c Barry working on text July26. d Consultation has happened in various ways. Need to decide how to further consult on Phase 2 of proposals in due course.	?		Y	Y	BTC	N
8. Work with others to improve water quality in River Waveney	a) Devise and implement programme of water quality testing. b) Work with partners to use the results to influence policy makers	A&E Committee Cllr Chidley	Public River Waveney Trust		2025 and ongoing		Y	Cllr Chidley completed training Autumn 2025. Testing regime						

								has now started July 2026.						
9. Encourage 'organic' management of all Trust and Council sites and activities	a) Minimise use of chemicals for weed killing. b) Consider a Council policy to allow more 'weeds' to be left where they don't cause a hazard.	A&E Committee Eco Champion	Public ESC	Office Staff	2023 and ongoing		N	a Policy of minimal spraying in place.					Both	N

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Draft revision April 2025 Objective: Journeys and destinations To get a good balance of space between people <i>walking, wheeling and cycling</i> , and people in vehicles both travelling and parking. To encourage walking and cycling and public transport to improve public health and reduce pollution. To reduce through traffic and traffic speeds. To improve pavement and road quality					Timeline and Budget			Update	Funded by				Area	NP Policy
Item	Activities	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Staff / Resources	Due Date(s)	Budget	5 years +Y / N		CIL	EMR	Grant	Precept	BTC / BFCT / Both	Y / N
1.Liaise with other agencies to review the availability, location, cost and signing of on street and off-street parking for shoppers workers and residents	a. ESC parking team has reviewed on street parking in Beccles. Continue to press ESC and SCC to progress review Timetable late 2025 - 2026 b. issue of pressure on car parking remains. Seek review of car park signing to make better use of Newgate car park	Planning & Highways Committee	BTC ESC SCC BBTA	Office staff	a. 2026 b. Not yet clear		N	a) Continue to press ESC and SCC to progress review – ESC Parking Services now taking this forward July26. b) Seek review of signing to make better use of Newgate Car Park. ESC happy to work with TC to review signage July26.					BTC	BTCFF*
2.Explore the possibility of more shared surface areas, bearing in mind the needs of less mobilepeople, and concern about the effects on traders	P&H needs to decide how / when to take this forward.	Planning & Highways Committee	BTC ESC SCC BBTA	Office Staff	As above		Y	a)P&H needs to decide, consult on and cost any agreed shared surface area.					BTC	BTCFF
3. Through traffic, particularly HGVs, and speeding in the town	a. Traffic survey March 2025 identified potential for 20.m.p.h zone in central Beccles. Application to SCC for traffic orders, with some speed restriction measures, due late July b. Speedwatch Group established c. HGV limit prospects depend on proof that most HGV movement is through traffic. Survey of deliveries to shops and businesses planned to provide this	Planning & Highways Committee	BTC ESC SCC	Office Staff	a 2025, b in place c: unclear		Y	a) SCC considers that survey data likely to justify 20.m.p.h. zone in area north of St Mary's Road/ Peddars Lane, and west of George Westwood Way/Gosford Road 20mph zone formally agreed April 26. Awaiting technical details from SCC and timeframe for implementation July26. c)Survey of deliveries to shops and businesses to be considered by JDWP 29 th July 2025. Further progress on hold to prioritise 20mph zone.					BTC	

4. Encourage 'green' transport options	a. Review bus routes and pursue possibility of bus stops and bus route alterations near railway station b. Seek integration of electric buses, with EV charging point at bus station c. Ensure that Council and Trust vehicles are electric/low carbon d. Minimise car use for Council and Trust travel. e. Work with appropriate authorities to support new and enhanced cycle and pedestrian routes.	Planning and Highways Committee Assets & Estate Committee	SCC, NCC, ESC Bus companies, landowners of sites near Beccles Station Developers	Office Staff	a and b unclear c and d ongoing			a. Rerouting of some bus services to link Old Market and the railway station desirable, but require design and acquisition. Check with SCC Members. b. Raise with SCC members c. Van is electric. Ranger vehicle purchased diesel powered as no suitable electric model available. d. Ongoing e. Will be assisted by speed limit area (above) but further work needed.					Both	BECC6
5. Improve poor surfaces of pavements and road	a. BTC to link with SCC councillors and Highways Dept to highlight areas of concern for their regular walkabouts in the town. b. Promote "Fix my Street" and SCC pothole reporting websites to public.	All	BTC, SCC, Highways Dept	Office Staff	Ongoing		N	a. Link with SCC walkabouts now in place. Good liaison with SCC councillors and with previous local SCC Community Liaison Engineer. New engineer in post Nov24. b. Not yet pursued					BTC	
6. Resolve parking issues at Common Lane	ESC review of on-street car parking (see 1. Above) includes more double yellow lines for road safety reasons in this area Review and implement a parking plan to alleviate pressures on access to the facilities and parking on the road.	Working Party	BTC, Local Sports Groups	Office Staff	2023		N	Changes to Alan Hutchinson Way completed. Awaiting completion of work on Orchard site to allow Scouts and Guides to move; awaiting date from contractor for additional car parking adjacent to Scout & Guide building. imminent. Parking restrictions in						

								Common Lane expected in next 12 months.						
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Notes: 1. and 2

1. Because of overlap between town centre and journeys and destinations, consideration should be given to the formation of a steering group from key agencies which could take over the overall directions of work programmes, with resources possible from ESC
2. In the People and Places Survey 2019, among respondents, traffic and parking where the two highest negative features of Beccles, both issues higher than the average from Suffolk towns.
- 3 Evidence given to the CIL inspector by the owners of the Garden Neighbourhood site included a cash flow projection over 15 years, including commitments presumably arising from negotiations with ESC and SCC. The commitments include £625,000 for a “Travel Plan” to be paid in quarter four of year 1 of the development. It is likely that this is to provide alleviation measures for the extra traffic generated by the development, but this needs to be checked with ESC.

* Beccles Town Centre Forward Framework 2021

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Objective: The Town Council: To ensure that the activities of the Town Council are open and transparent, effectively administered, responsive, coherent with the wishes of the town and regarded as value for money. To develop a robust method of two-way communication with the people of Beccles.					Timeline and Budget			Update	Funded by				Area	NP Policy
Item	Activities	Responsibility	Stakeholders	Staff / Resources	Due Date	Budget	5 years + Y / N		CIL	EMR	Grant	Precept	BTC / BFCT / Both	Y / N
1. Publish an annual update to this plan, indicating where budget has and will be spent	a. Publish an annual report on the work of the Council and make this widely available.	Office staff, Mayor and full Council		Office staff	Annual, first edition Spring 2023	Dependent on format - £500.	N	Published in 2023, 2024 & 2025. 2026 published on website, in pack for Annual Town meeting and paper copies at Town Hall and in library.				Y	Both	N
3. Improve communication	a. Consider opportunities for two-way communication b. Ensure regular use of Social Media to promote Council d. Marketing & Events Officer working on Marketing & Communications Plan	Clerk and office staff		Office staff	Annual / ongoing	5 hours per week = £4,000	N	a This needs to be considered in our planning for 2026-27 b Further work needed on two-way communication via social media. Facebook polls being tried for event feedback and for playground equipment survey. d No overarching plan yet agreed. Cllr Booker to assist Marketing & Events Officer with this.				Y	Both	N
4. Ensure that the working environment for all staff is appropriate	a. Review IT systems and equipment b. Review working environment (links to review of Town Hall) c. Use external contractor to support review of health & safety across the council and trust	Clerk and Assets & Estates Committee		Office staff	2024	£5,000 in 2024-25	N	c Some further work on implementation of new systems still needed.				Y	Both	N
5. Ensure training and development opportunities for staff	a. Review training policy b. Ensure adequate budget for staff training c. Consider whether apprenticeship role(s) are appropriate for Council	Clerk and Personnel Committee		Office staff	1. Annual 3. 2025 onwards	1. £1,500	N	b Budget for training for 25-26 (staff and councillors): £2746. c Considered by Personnel Nov24. Decision deferred due to project for day boats at Quay not having enough				Y	Both	N

								information. Being reviewed by Personnel Committee July 26 for 26-27.						
6. Ensure that all councillors are provided with information and training as required	a. All new councillors to be provided with a new councillor pack and briefing and encouraged to attend appropriate external training b. Council policy to actively promote the importance of training for councillors	Clerk and Personnel Committee		Office staff	Annual / ongoing		N	a Pack given to new councillors. Mayor and Clerk carried out briefing session for new councillors, June 2023, and ongoing for those subsequently co-opted. Build in review meeting between new councillor, Clerk and Mayor after 3 months. Prepare for promoting election in May 2027. b Policy to encourage training agreed. Take-up remains low.				Y	Both	N
8. Seek external validation of the Council and Trust's activities	a. Achieve Local Council Award Scheme Quality by 2025 and work towards Quality Gold by 2027 b. Investigate ways to benchmark Council performance against similar councils.	Clerk		Office staff	a.2025 and 2027		N	a Registered for Local Council Award Scheme Silver March 2025. Following NALC 'triage' of draft application, formal application submitted for Bronze Award June 26.				Y	BTC	N
9. Investigate potential transfer to Town Council of assets held by other organisations where this would benefit Beccles	a. Consider discussions with East Suffolk Council to transfer Exchange Square shelter, benches, play areas and public toilets, providing suitable financial arrangements can be put in place	Clerk Development Committee	East Suffolk	Office staff, including potential for additional staff to maintain assets	2023 onwards	Dependent on negotiations	N	On hold pending local government reorganisation March 2026.				Y	BTC	N
11. Ensure Council's Emergency Plan is current and appropriate	a. Review Emergency Plan on an annual basis. b. Agree structure through which Plan is monitored	Clerk Deputy Mayor	Suffolk County Council Emergency Planning	Office staff	2023 onwards		N	a Plan agreed, April 2026. Amendment to increase role of paid staff for communication coordination underway.					BTC	N
12. Review Neighbourhood Plan	a. Set up group to review Neighbourhood Plan	Clerk Planning & Highways Committee		Office staff Potential consultant	2026		N	Chair of Planning attended relevant training 2024. National funding to support this no longer available. On hold March 26.					BTC	Y

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