Council Plan 2023 2027 (Final Draft)

Introduction.

Kirkby Stephen Town Council aims to enhance the town for the benefit of all residents.

Achieving our target will involve working positively with all partners, including in local government and the private and voluntary sectors, all with a view to building on and sustaining what we have already, namely a close community and a thriving, independent economy.

To that end, the following represents our priorities for the council which we will review and prioritise each year.

Cllr Paul Richardson (Chairman). October 2023.

2023 - 2027 Initiatives and Projects

Term	Short Term 2023/2024, Medium Term 2023/2026, Long Term = During the life of the council (before May 2027).
Priority	High/Medium/Low

No	Term/Priority/Lead	Initiative / Project
1	**Short Term/High/ Cllr Wren (Design Service)**	**Jubilee Park Charity** The Council is sole trustee of the Jubilee Park Charity (Charity number: 504940). It will maintain its implementation the adopted Management Plan to 2026. The Council will: 1. Liaise with the adjacent landowner to improve access and amenity at the entrance to the park. 2. Address the unwelcoming aspect of the park by producing a brief for redesign of the entrance area to the park at Jubilee layby in respect of funds awarded to the council by Inspire Eden. 3. Increase funds available to the park charity & seek capital funds for identified capital works in respect of the layby and entrance. 4. Monitor implementation of the management plan through the existing and dedicated working group/council. 5. Discharge the responsibilities of being a charity trustee. 6. Deliver or recommission the overdue tree survey.
2	**Short Term/Medium/ Cllr Murray**	**Town Centre Improvements** **Enhancement of the Public Realm** Working with partners at Westmorland and Furness Council to access funding through the UKSPF Kirkby Stephen Town Council will: 1. Seek sensitive refurbishment of existing and heritage signage and new wayfinding signage. 2. Seek investment in the refurbishment of Silver Street Gardens. (3) 3. Seek investment in town amenities including Market Place and War Memorial to offer an improved visitor experience encouraging both repeat and new visits. 4. Seek investment in facilities for disabled visitors/residents. **5.** Seek review of roads/traffic/parking in the Market Place area.

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3	**Short Term/High/ Cllr Richardson (Design Service)**	**Open Spaces** **Planning and Development of Silver Street Gardens.** The council will seek to progress the development of a refurbishment plan for the Silver Street Gardens establishing a memorial to former Chairman Joan Johnstone with the negotiated consent of the Highway's Authority improving access to the gardens. The council will: 1. Apply for planning consent. 2. Negotiate the stopping up of the Highway (reduction of pavement area) as appropriate. 3. Raise funds for implementation as necessary. 4. Commission works.
4	**Medium Term/Medium/Cllr Wren. (Solicitor)**	**Properties (Portfolio)** The Council will seek to maintain its progress with making registrations of its property assets at the Land Registry to include: 1. Market Place. 2. Silver Street Gardens 3. Cloisters
5	**Medium Term/Medium/ Clerk/Council**	The Council will maintain progress with the improvement of access at Edensyde and Stenkrith Parks including signage and negotiating with landowners as necessary.
6	**Medium Term/Medium/ Clerk (Design Service)**	The Council will work to clear the backlog of maintenance works (off season) required at the Visitor Information Centre. To include: 1. planning consent for replacement of windows and 2. repainting of render and 3. the commission of new signage for the exterior relating to the statue of Lady Anne Clifford and the Westmorland Dales Area. 4. Planning consent will be sought for the relocation of the town council's official notice board to Local Links.
7	**Medium Term/ Medium/Clerk/ (Surveyor)**	The Council will seek to review its property valuations where appraisals are demonstrably out of date.
8	**Medium Term/Medium/Cllr Lancaster**	**Open Spaces** **Play provision** The council will: 1. Review the provision of play areas in Kirkby Stephen and research opportunities for collaboration and partnership to deliver new facilities for the benefit of the area. 2. Subject to agreement to council will work to raise funds to deliver improvements and new facilities in partnership with others.
9	**Medium Term/Medium/ Cllr Waite.**	**Travel, Transport.** The council will: 1. Continue to deliver on the recommendations of the Transport Audit (2022).

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		2. Hold a restricted reserve to deliver partnership funding to the subsidy of the 563 Saturday Bus Service. 3. Advocate for establishment of the 563 service as a permanent service 4. Advocate support for 563 service and other services with Westmorland and Furness Council and others. 5. Maintain the provision of combined timetables. 6. Support the continuing provision of a Street Cleaner working with Westmorland and Furness Council 7. Liaise as necessary with the Westmorland Dales Bus 8. Seek opportunities for the introduction of EV Charging infrastructure.
10	**Long Term/High/ Cllr Dew.**	**Roads.** The council will. 1. Advocate for mitigations associated with the Dualling of the A66 especially active travel infrastructure linking Brough and Kirkby Stephen. 2. Advocate increased provision of carparking for residents and visitors. 3. With Westmorland and Furness Council seek a review of speed limits in the Town. 4. Work with Westmorland and Furness Council to complete and deliver Eden District Council's transfer of footway lighting. 5. Liaise with Highways Officers over the Traffic Regulation Orders for Kirkby Stephen.
11	**Long Term/Medium/ Cllr Lancaster.**	**Economy and Community** The council will seek to enhance town centre vitality by: 1. Encouraging the establishment of a business forum 2. Maintaining a 'watching brief' and researching good practice in relation to the provision of retail banking services and in the event of the threat of the withdrawal of services, advocate for and seek the establishment of a 'banking hub' in the Town Centre. 3. Seeking to support the business forum in re-establishing and facilitating coach visits. 4. Researching the potential for the development of the Market working with colleagues in the Economic Development Department at Westmorland and Furness Council.
12	**Long Term/Medium/ Clerk/Council.**	1. Identifying funding and expertise to review the Neighbourhood and Town Plans as they approach the end of their life and advance planning when the risk of Town Plans being superseded by W&F Plans can be mitigated. 2. Identifying opportunities to advocate for the provision of Affordable Housing/Local Occupancy.

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13	**Long Term/Medium/ Cllr Dew.**	**Support for Children and Young People** Evergreen Community Trust & Kirkby Stephen Youth Centre The Council will maintain its support for the development of a dedicated youth facility in Kirkby Stephen by: 1. Providing administrative support to the trustees of the Evergreen Community Trust until the submission of the 2022 2023 TAR to the Charity Commission (October 2023). 2. Submit final reports to the principal funders of the Capital programme Cumbria Community Foundation, Westmorland and Furness (inspire Eden). 3. Maintaining annual small scale grant funding to the Evergreen Community Trust through an allocation of the free resource (Section 137, Local Government Act 1972).
14	**Long Term/High Medium Chairman/Council**	Support for Local Events The Council will maintain its support for beneficial local events including: 1. Westmorland Dales Day 2. Easter Vehicle Rally 3. 200th Anniversary of the Stockton to Darlington Railway. 4. Townwide 1940's event in 2023 5. Christmas Lights 6. 80th Anniversary of D Day. 7. Yomp. 8. Other Events Facilitating and supporting local organisations with small grants using the free resource in line with the Small Grants Policy adopted in 2022 and as updated.
15	**Long Term/Medium Cllrs Richardson, Birtles & Clerk**	**Administration.** The Council will: 1. Proposal for Sub Committees (Finance and Planning). 2. Commission branding for the Town Council. 3. Reinstate Local Links Management Committee (Cllrs Richardson and Birtles to liaise with KBS (W&F) 4. Review of Facilities and Services. 5. Review of Policies (FOI, Complaints Procedure) 6. Review of Staffing. 7. Review of Training needs. 8. Aim to Declare a Power of General Competence during the life of the Council. The Council will maintain its administrative, political and practical support for the 'Good Neighbours' support programme through Local Links.
16	**Long Term/Medium/ Chairman & Council**	**Advocacy & Representation** **Sewage & River Pollution** The council will advocate for improvements to sewage infrastructure to secure improvements in the protection of water quality in the Eden and a reduction in discharges from the combined sewer.

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17	**Long Term/Medium/ Chairman & Council**	**Health and Social Care** The council will use its influence to advocate for Health and Social care and the enhancement of services.
18	**Long Term High/Medium Cllr Dew**	**Appleby Horse Fair** The council will liaise with others to seek to represent the interests of residents in relation to the impacts associated with the Appleby Horse fair during Phase 1 of the fair.
19	**Long Term/Medium/ Chairman & Council**	**Civic Venue** The council will seek opportunities and partnerships to establish the feasibility of a new Civic Venue/Amenity in Kirkby Stephen including opportunities to establish and incubate an archive/museum project
20	**Long Term/Medium /High Clerk & Council.**	**Communication & Engagement** The Council will: 1. Review its website. 2. Review its use of social media. 3. Seek to reintroduce its newsletter. 4. Consider the production of an annual report.

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