

STRATFORD ON AVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

The New Council Plan

The New Council Plan which will guide the administration for the next four years was voted for at Full Council on 11 December 2023. Detail below and at : [Council Plan 2023 - 2027 | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

Budget

The administration is in the process of setting a budget for the year 2024/5. Central government advises local authorities of their settlement figures on an annual basis, and the final figure was reported to SDC on 22 December. Due to these tight timescales, Cabinet has been working on the budget for some months prior to the central government figures being announced. Following the Christmas break the preliminary figures have now been finalised to achieve a balanced budget. We are pleased to announce that no cuts to services are anticipated. The budget will be out for public consultation, which is expected to commence on 19 January, upon which we welcome comments.

Cost of Living Support

We should like to remind residents that there is wide-ranging help and support available from the District Council if they are worried about the cost of living, which affects health and wellbeing. There is a link here to the support available: [Cost of Living Support | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#) or residents may telephone Customer Services on 01789 267575.

Community Safety

There have been a series of reports of break-ins, key and car thefts villages recently. This has affected Southam (including the fire station), Bishops and Long Itchington, and Fenny Compton. We also attach advice from Southam SNT at the end of our report.

Currently, the future operations of WCC Fire and Rescue service is being debated. The matter was raised at the last Council meeting. The District Council is concerned that cover is not depleted, noting the difficulty locally in maintaining Southam and Fenny Compton stations, but we want to ensure that full facts are considered and to that end we have asked for a full presentation to District Councillors.

Christmas Trees

Christmas Trees will be collected for recycling between 8-19 January. ***You do not need to have a green bin subscription for them to be collected.*** Please remove all decorations and cut trees over five metres high in half. A link to the website is here: [Refuse & Recycling Collections for Christmas and New Year | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

We wish all residents a Happy New Year.

Cllr Natalie Gist
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Cllr Nigel Rock
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From your District Councillors for Bishops Itchington, Fenny Compton and Napton Ward

Stratford-on-Avon District Councillors have approved the new Council Plan which sets its priorities for the District for the next four years.

The Council Plan, approved by Full Council on Monday 11 December has been produced with input from a wide range of key stakeholders and will provide the direction for the District Council over the next four years and will be a critical document in guiding the allocation of resources to priorities.

The Plan's six priorities are:

- **Local Economy**
We will create a resilient, larger, greener and more inclusive Economy.
- **Affordable, Well Built and Maintained Homes**
We will strive to deliver affordable well built and maintained homes.
- **Health and Wellbeing**
Health and wellbeing will be at the heart of the decisions we make.
- **Climate Change**
The time to act is now, we will lead the fight against climate change.
- **Delivery of Service**
We will use your money responsibly in delivering the best services possible.
- **Residents and Communities**
We will act in the best interest of our communities throughout our District understanding their needs to make responsible decisions

Cllr Susan Juned, Leader of Stratford-on-Avon District Council said: "Much work and thought has gone into developing this new Council Plan. Councillors, officers and local communities have worked together to create priorities and targets that will benefit all our residents and communities.

"At the heart of this plan is the ambition to make a real difference in our District, to improve local people's health and wellbeing, help our economy and address the biggest challenge of our time, the climate emergency. Against the backdrop of funding cuts to local government, we will keep investing in our communities so support goes where it is most needed."

To see a full copy of The Council Plan please visit: [Council Plan 2023 - 2027 | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

A detailed action plan for all the key priority areas will be considered by The Cabinet by March 2024.

Southam SNT tips if someone unexpected knocks on your door

- Lock your back door before answering the front door
- Never agree to have work done by somebody who knocks on your door
- Use a spy hole, chain or window to have a look at the caller before answering the door and keep the chain on. If you do not recognise the caller speak through the closed and locked door
- Always ask for proof of identity. Take it from the person (through the letterbox) and read it carefully before deciding what to do
- Never use a 'phone number provided by the caller as it could be a false number to an accomplice
- Avoid going outside so they can show you what needs doing as they will probably have an accomplice who will enter the house while you are distracted and steal from you
- Never pay for work before it is completed. Always agree a final price in writing and get an invoice and a receipt as proof of payment
- Do not accept any offer to drive you to the bank to withdraw money or give them your bank details
- Tell them you are not interested and ask them to leave. If they refuse call the police and dial 999 if you feel at risk or are being threatened or pressured
- Never give bank details to a caller, even those claiming to be from charities. Police will have a list of charitable organisations visiting your area which can be checked by calling 101. We recommend that you contact the charity directly if you wish to make a regular donation through your bank or building society
- If you have any doubt, keep them out and remember that you do not have to open the door. Report any suspicious activity to the police on 101 or 999.