

Council Plan 2024-29

Priorities for 2024 and 2025

Business Plan Working Group

1. Introduction

The Business Plan Working Group has reviewed the results of the consultation on possible CCC initiatives for the period 2024-2029 which closed in mid-February. A summary of results of the consultation and a commentary are in Section 2.

Based on the community feedback on the initiatives in the consultation and the resources (planned to be) available (including a new project manager), the BPWG has developed the following summary of newly started and proposed initiatives:

- A. Initiatives started in 2023 together with some important projects over and above “normal course of business” which were already in progress
- B. New initiatives to start in 2024/25 which BPWG believes should be priorities
- C. Other initiatives which BPWG should start in 2024/25 if resources permit
- D. Initiatives to be started in 2025/26 (in addition to any carried over from 2024/25)

These proposals are presented in Section 3 following a brief summary of the results of the consultation in Section 2.

2. Results of Consultation

354 responses to the consultation were received. This represents a response rate of around 0.27% of households. While this means that the results are subject to very broad “confidence intervals”, such a response rate is by no means unusual (the Direct Marketing Association reports an average response rate of 1% for door by door distribution).

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of four overarching objectives (“Fill Gaps in the City’s Infrastructure”, “Improve the Environment”, “Create a Vibrant, Active and Thriving Community”, and “Preserve the City’s Heritage”) and 43 more specific actual or potential CCC activities/initiatives. In order to create a ranking of priorities/objectives we created weighted scores (4 for very important, 2 for Important, 0 for Indifferent, -2 for unimportant) (NEED TO ALIGN RESULTS WITH THESE WEIGHTINGS).

The tables on the following pages show the weighted ranked results.

2. Results of Consultation: Key Priorities

The results support the priority areas identified in the consultation⁷: more than 80% of respondents think that all four priority areas are “very important” or “important”.

Count	Very important	Important	Indifferent	Unimportant	Weighted score
Improve the environment	222	101	25	3	277.25
Create a vibrant, active and thriving community	224	108	11	8	276.75
Fill gaps in the City's Infrastructure	198	113	35	5	260.75
Preserve the City's heritage	169	117	51	12	234.25

The overall importance of the environment to respondents is notable. But specific initiatives under way or proposed attract less support (see next page) suggesting that we should be looking for new initiatives in this area

Respondents are less focused on the City’s heritage but only a small minority consider this area “unimportant”.

2. Results of Consultation: Specific Initiatives

The top 10 ranked initiatives are shown below. Public realm initiatives, the proposed CAB implant and environmental and planning initiatives attract strong support:

Keep our properties and spaces in good order
Contribute to city centre pavements improvements
Provide face to face support for residents in crisis
Provide streelights on footpaths and twittens
Install additional street lighting
Install and maintain benches, bike racks, finger posts, etc
Represent residents on all planning applications
Contribute to community wardens, city ambassadors, toilets, etc
Reduce our carbon footprint to reach net zero by 2030
Provide grant funding to local voluntary sector groups

A(I)Initiatives Carried Over or Launched in 2023/24

Initiative	Status	Committee	Funding	Officer Time	Next Steps
Community Forum	Launched, ongoing	CA	£500	108 hrs pa	
Arts Forum	Launched, ongoing	CA	£500	108 hrs pa	
Neighbourhood Plan	Ongoing	Planning	£40,000	0	
Brewery Fields	In progress	Property	£2,500	37	
Cathedral Flower Beds	Quotes obtained for 2 beds	Property			Get quotes for remaining beds
Gala Expansion	Planned for 29 June	CA	Additional £4k from precept	No additional time	
City Centre Pavements	Awaiting WSCC Plan				

A(II) Initiatives Carried Over or Launched in 2023/24

Initiative	Status	Committee	Funding	Officer Time	Next Steps
Community Forum	Launched, ongoing	CA	£500	108 hrs pa	
Review of civic awards	TBA	CA			
Extend 20mph area					Meeting 14 March with WSCC

B(I) 24/25 Launches - Priority

Initiative	Status	Funding	Committee	Lead	Officer Time	Next Steps
CAB Implant		£45,500 (precept)	CA	JK/ST	1 new FTE	
Youth Forum		£2500	CA		108 hours pa	
Improve Street Lighting		CIL	Planning		188.5 (project manager)	Survey to identify gaps
Free use of council rooms	Policy approved		CA		350 hours pa	Launch and evaluate in 6 months
Set Coms policy	Aspiration		Council	ST	25 hours (??)	Define policy
Improve environment	Aspiration		Planning			Define realistic options inc partnering opportunities
Community Centre for South	Aspiration	£1.5m (CIL/PW LB)	Property	Project Manager	1425 hours	Plan Feasibility study and assemble team

B (II) 24/25 Launches – Priority

Initiative	Status	Funding	Lead	Officer Time	Next Steps
Playgrounds	CDC Lead	TBD		Low	Meeting with /CDC being arranged
Whats On ? Noticeboards (6) for community arts groups		£14,500 (CIL)		45 hours	
Council Newsletter (3 a year)		£4,500		90 hours pa	
Assembly Rooms website		£2,500		104 hours pa	

C 24/25 Launches – If time permits

Initiative	Status	Funding	Lead	Officer Time	Next Steps
Review of mayoralty and traditions					
Review/revitalise twinning					
Additional SID		£2,500		182 hrs pa	

D(I) 25/26 Launches

Initiative	Status	Funding	Lead	Officer Time	Next Steps
Bus shelters inc seats					
Review of signage		£10k (CIL)	Project manager 95 hours Property Maintenance Manager 95 hours 70 hours property maintenance staff		Define scope and objectives
Improve Litten and St Martins Gardens					
Public Drinking Fountains					
Outdoor performance space		£100k (CIL)	Project Manager		

D(II)25/26 Launches

Initiative	Status	Funding	Lead	Officer Time	Next Steps
Use street art to promote community engagement and tourism		£2,500		58 hours pa	

Other Planned Initiatives

Initiative	Status	Funding	Lead	Officer Time	Next Steps
Enclose portico	Deferred				
Improvements to Whyke Amphitheatre		£2,500		150	Feasibility Study