



Bridport
Town Council



**BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL PLAN
2024-29**

PUBLISHED JANUARY 2025

BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL COUNCIL PLAN 2024-2029

Background

Bridport Town Council is the most local tier of government in Dorset, completely separate from but working alongside Dorset Council, the Unitary Authority. We are a town council with a long and illustrious history of working within a considered, democratic, framework which is prudent, transparent and respectful of the local community.

In July 2022 Dorset Council approved the creation of a single council area comprising the majority of the existing Allington, Bradpole, Bridport and Bothenhampton & Walditch parishes. The changes bring most of the new Foundry Lea housing development into Bridport whilst retaining the rural character of Symondsburry Parish.

The role of the Town Council is to ensure Bridport is a thriving community and a healthy, vibrant and attractive place in which to work, live and visit. The Town Council does this by working collaboratively, not only as an ambitious and committed team of councillors and officers, but also with a range of external strategic partners.

The Town Council is committed to providing excellence in the services and facilities which it delivers, aiming to be responsive, innovative, visible, accessible and straightforward in our approach.

Governance

We have 20 Councillors, who are normally elected every four years, representing five Wards; Bridport Central, Bridport West & Allington, Bradpole, Bothenhampton & Walditch and West Bay. The Council appoints four main committees and one sub-committee, which are decision making bodies. Full Council and committee meetings are open to the public with a public forum at the start of each meeting, when the public can raise issues and ask questions. These meetings are usually held at Mountfield (for committees) and the Town Hall (for Full Council). Each of the five wards has its own individual arrangements for councillors to engage with residents.

During May each year at the Annual Council Meeting, a Mayor is elected. The Mayor is the town's First Citizen and its ambassador at public, civic and ceremonial events. At the same meeting the Council elects a Leader, Deputy Mayor, decides on the committee memberships and appoints councillors as representatives to over 30 other bodies.

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The decision making committees and sub-committee are:

- Finance & General Purposes Committee
- Planning Committee
- Environment & Social Wellbeing Committee
- Best Value & Scrutiny Sub-Committee
- Bridport Communities Trust Management Committee
- BANP Joint Council Committee

What we do

Councillors and staff strive to ensure that all Council operations are delivered in the most effective and efficient manner and comply with regulation and best practice.

Why a five year plan for Bridport Town Council?

The Town Council agreed to produce a 5-year plan in order to:

- Promote transparency – being clear what the Town Council priorities are and what actions will be delivered over the plan period 2024 to 2029,
- Set the functions of the Town Council in a strategic context – area/county/national/international,
- Provide a basis for securing funding – whether through the local precept, revenue generation or funding bids,
- Co-ordinate the Town Council's work with others, and generate productive collaboration with partners,
- Provide the basis for oversight by councillors as well as others and ensure best value.

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Town Council mission statement

To ensure Bridport remains a thriving community and a healthy, attractive and resilient place in which to work, live and visit. A Rights-Respecting Town and strategic centre for the West Dorset area with a vibrant retail, arts and cultural offer, set within a special and distinctive environment recognised as the Dorset National Landscape.

Listening to our community

Community consultation around this 5-year plan was undertaken at the Charter Fair, Local Food Festival and at a series of engagement events attended by councillors. At the Melplash Show in 2024 residents were encouraged to consider the strategic themes guiding the Town Council's work and put forward project ideas.

The top three priorities as voted for by those who responded were:

Strategic priority	Votes Charter Fair	Votes Food Festival	Votes Councillor Engagement	TOTAL
Projects for the environment	116	95	56	267
Projects for the community	100	89	37	226
Projects for the Town	97	81	48	226

All major projects led by the Town Council aim to include a community engagement phase, drawing in stakeholders, residents and voluntary groups impacted by any project to ensure local awareness is raised and local know-how mobilised.

Consultation activity undertaken in summer 2024 generated a great number of project ideas. Not every proposal was appropriate or possible to include in this 5-year plan. A list of actions that were raised but not included in this plan is appended for information.

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Resourcing delivery of the plan

To assist with plan delivery and indicate levels of council priorities we have introduced a priorities column into the 5-year plan. There are three levels of priority allocated by councillors:

- Highest = Red
- High = Pink
- Medium = Amber
- Low = Blue

In this plan we are combining the level of priority with an assessment of project deliverability. There are two levels of deliverability for each project:

- **GREEN** = project can be delivered within current BTC staffing/budgets or through precept setting,
- **AMBER** = project delivery will require additional external funding and/or staffing or co-operation with a third party.

* Cost information shown is indicative and requires detailed assessment for delivery.

Monitoring & review of this plan

The Town Council seeks to deliver the projects/actions identified in this plan. Inevitably new and unplanned demands will be made on the Town Council during the plan period. The list of projects will be monitored at each meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee and the Plan will be reviewed in full each year. The requirement to respond to new demands will need to be balanced with available resources and approval of new projects will inevitably require the displacement of agreed actions unless resources are increased.

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Strategic priorities for Bridport Town Council			
For the Town & Wards	For the Community	For the Environment	For a Well-Run Council
Responding to the climate & ecological emergency and need for transformative actions.			
Delivering the ambitions of the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan, including action in support of delivery of social housing	Supporting vulnerable and less advantaged people in our community	Ensuring that the town's green spaces are managed sustainably and deliver ecosystem services for all	Building organisational resilience and legal & regulatory compliance, including succession planning for staff retirement
Supporting a vibrant Town Centre including managing and developing Bridport's market offer	Supporting education, employment and leisure opportunities for young people	Safeguarding heritage assets for future generations to enjoy	Using innovation, technology and new ways of working to improve value for money and efficiency in Council services
Keeping Bridport thriving - Promoting Bridport as 'Dorset's Eventful Town'	Securing the development of cultural and recreational facilities available in the town	Safeguarding the special landscape qualities of the Dorset National Landscape	Actively engage citizens in the running of the Town
Helping build a sustainable local economy	Managing buildings and land for community benefit	Valuing and promoting walking, cycling and public transport as alternatives to car use	Embedding the ward-based structure into decision making and working practices

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Cross cutting priority

Bridport Town Council responded quickly in 2019 to the emerging consensus that climate change had become a crisis that required emergency action. BTC declared a climate emergency in May 2019 and followed this up with a detailed Action Plan in October 2019 together with a dedicated budget for the climate emergency of £100,000.

Following a public review of the Climate Emergency Action Plan in 2023 BTC produced a more focused action plan with greater emphasis given to supporting our community to adapt to the inevitable impacts of a changing climate. To achieve this shift Councillors approved a revised [Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Plan 2023-2025](#) under the following headings:

- Emissions reduction;
- Resilient, socially inclusive and healthy communities;
- Ecological emergency and
- Transitioning to a circular economy.

During the lifetime of this plan (2024-2029), the Town Council will seek to ensure that:

1. Its decision making and activities are ethical, rights respecting, fully inclusive and that all opportunities are taken to increase community engagement, particularly with young people.
2. It works with other councils, organisations and agencies, to ensure that actions to address the Climate & Ecological Emergency are prioritised and effectively resourced.
3. Bridport Investment Plan is fully utilised to secure funding for infrastructure improvements and support business transition to a low carbon/ circular economy. Addressing traffic and people movement issues and reimagining signage and interpretation.
4. Publicly owned and other community assets are safeguarded and that assets and services transferred to the Town Council are efficiently managed to provide demonstrable community benefit and support the local economy.
5. Development of key sites across the town (i) effectively engages local people in decision making, (ii) provides demonstrable community benefit, and (iii) helps promote a low carbon transition. During this plan period we anticipate engagement with the following sites: Bridport Bus Station, Flood Lane/Fisherman's Arms, Jewsons and JC Phillips, St Michael's and Foundry Lea.

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Priority:		Deliverability:	
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Strategic Priorities Action Plan 2024-2029

Cross cutting priority				
Responding to the Climate & Ecological Emergency				
Action	Priority/ Cost*	Funding sources	Measure Deliver by date	Responsible Officer/Committee
Deliver the Town Council's Climate & Ecological Emergency Action Plan (revised 2023)	See individual project costs below	BTC External funding	Action plan delivered Review 2026	All Staff E&SW Committee External partners



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For the Town and Wards - Action Plan 2024-2029				
Priority 1 - Delivering the ambitions of the Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan				
Action	Priority/ Cost*	Funding sources	Measure of success Deliver by date	Responsible Officer/ Committee
Initiate and resource a light review of BANP 2020-2036. Including workspace and housing need assessments.	£17,700 Locality grants	BTC Symondsburys PC Locality Grant	Regulation 14 consultation draft published May 2025. Revised and approved BANP. Dec 2025	Project Manager Planning
Support JCC & SG meetings.	Existing revenue budget	BTC Symondsburys PC	4 meetings a year.	Town Clerk Planning
Undertake annual monitoring review of the effectiveness of BANP in planning decisions.	Existing revenue budget	BTC Symondsburys PC	Annual Monitoring Report May	Project Manager Planning
Use the BANP review to gather evidence and policy approaches to guide engagement in consultations around the Dorset Local Plan.	Existing revenue budget	BTC	Engagement in Local Plan consultations. 2026/27	Planning
Priority 2 - Town Centre, Market Management & Development				
Manage and promote market days	Existing revenue budget	BTC Market Income	Number of stalls. % increase in market income. Annually	Town Surveyor F&GP
Commission and publish Town Centre Health Check reports – including Market Reviews.	Existing revenue budget	BTC	Surveys Summer 2025 Report published Nov 2025	Project Manager Town Centre WG
Produce a combined Bridport Town Guide & Market Directory.	Existing revenue budget	BTC	Directory published. Spring 2025	Town Surveyor F&GP

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Action	Priority/ Cost*	Funding sources	Measure of success Deliver by date	Responsible Officer/ Committee
Manage sitting out licences and A boards on behalf of Dorset Council	Existing revenue budget	Dorset Council	Number of licences issued. Annually	Town Surveyor F&GP
Develop Access & Movement Study option for changes to the Town Hall Junction into a community consultation proposal and seek implementation of experimental arrangements. Study options to be reviewed and discussed in committee before moving forward.	£2,000 community engagement	BTC Dorset Council Grants	Proposal to Dorset Council Highways. Public consultation events. 2025 Experimental arrangements 2026	Project Manager Town Surveyor* E&SW
Develop and present a proposal to extend 20 mph speed limits to all areas of Bridport.	Existing revenue budget	BTC Dorset Council	Proposal submitted for DC assessment. 2025	Ward Clerks Ward Working Groups
Priority 3 – Keeping Bridport thriving - Promoting Bridport as Dorset’s ‘Eventful’ Town				
Provide resources and logistical support for events in the Town. Priorities for this plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remembrance, • Community Charter Fair, • Carnival/Torchlight, • Youth festival (tbc), • Christmas Cheer. Maintain support for community events organised by other organisations, where these contribute to the ‘Eventful Town’ brand, and/or are of significant community benefit.	Existing revenue budget	BTC	Number of events supported. Estimate value of support provided. Annually	TEM Manager F&GP
Manage and deliver TIC operations, including booking services and Bucky Doo Square activities.	Existing revenue budget	BTC	TIC Footfall numbers. % increase in income. Annually	TEM Manager F&GP

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Action	Priority/ Cost*	Funding sources	Measure of success Deliver by date	Responsible Officer/ Committee
Priority 4 – Helping build a sustainable local economy				
Bridport Investment Plan – refreshed and promoted.	£3,000 Unbudgeted	BTC	Investment Plan re published. Autumn 2025	Project Manager Ward Clerks F&GP
Support installation of rapid charging electric car points where local support or viability has been demonstrated.	C&EE action Up to £50k dependent on agreed solution	BTC Dorset Council	Number of new ev chargers installed. Annually	Planning
Priorities for influencing activities on behalf of the Town and Wards:				
Dorset Council to produce collaboratively a Rural Market Towns Strategy	N/A	Dorset Council	Strategy produced.	Project Manager Full Council
Dorset Council to review impacts of car parking fees on footfall and business trade	N/A	Dorset Council	Review of car park fee undertaken and reported.	Town Clerk E&SWB
Dorset Council to prioritise a redevelopment scheme for the Bus Station site that includes a social housing element, incorporating St Michael’s, Boldwood House, Plottingham and Foundry Lea into a wider vision.	£10,000 feasibility/ planning	Dorset Council	An acceptable Bus Station scheme progressing to Planning application.	Town Surveyor F&GP
Development of Care Village and South Street sites that include social rent housing and infrastructure contributions.	N/A	Dorset Council Developers	An acceptable scheme progressing to Planning application.	Town Clerk Planning
Actively engage in Dorset Local Plan consultations to ensure process is democratic, transparent and aligns with BTC C&EE plan.	£2,500 community engagement	BTC	Consultation events attended. Formal representations submitted. 2025-27	Planning
Actively support a shift to a circular economy — eliminating waste by reusing, refurbishing, recycling, and recirculating for as long as possible.	C&EE action N/A	BTC	Evidence that the circular economy is being considered and actioned. 2029	Project Manager E&SW

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For the Community – Action Plan 2024-2029				
Priority 5 - Supporting vulnerable and less advantaged people in our community				
Action	Priority/ Cost*	Funding sources	Measure Deliver by date	Responsible Officer/ Committee
Support community volunteers with resources and training. Including in terms of children and young people. Priority Groups for this plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Champions, • River Quality monitoring, • Flood Wardens, • Bridport Food Matters. 	£3,500 training	BTC Grants	Number of groups and volunteers supported. Number of group led projects supported. Annually	Project Manager E&SW
Support BLAP as a sounding board for liaison with surrounding parishes and to campaign for resources to address issues of rural deprivation, housing need and health & wellbeing.	Existing revenue budget	BTC	Maintain admin support and ensure council attendance at BLAP meetings. Annually	Town Clerk F&GP
Homeless emergency accommodation and develop a homelessness strategy as part of our housing strategy.	£,2000 planning	BTC Grants	Emergency homeless solution found. 2027	Town Surveyor* F&GP
Assist the Food Bank to secure new premises as required.	£,2000 planning	BTC Grants	Site and funding secured. 2025	Town Surveyor* F&GP
Keep Bridport Emergency & Resilience Plan under review.	Existing revenue budget	BTC	Plan updated. Summer 2025	Project Manager E&SW
Continue to support community transport needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service 7, including promotion and possible expansion, • Support for WATAG. 	Existing budget + £20k pa	BTC	Number of service users. Annually	Town Clerk E&SW
Resolve the future management and operation of the Beach Wheelchair Scheme	Up to £10k pa	BTC	Management arrangements agreed by March 2025	Town Clerk E&SW/F&GP
Priority 6 - Supporting education, employment and leisure opportunities for young people				
Pursue redevelopment of Plottingham Field – to include outdoor skate park, play area and walk/cycle route to Foundry Lea	£12,000 feasibility /planning + £500k	Dorset Council BTC Grants	Plans agreed. Funding secured – Phased delivery. 2026/2029	Town Surveyor* F&GP

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Action	Priority/ Cost*	Funding sources	Measure Deliver by date	Responsible
Continue support for arts and culture collaborations generated through Town of Culture.	Existing revenue budget	BTC	Town of Culture legacy projects delivered. 2025/26	Project Manager E&SW
Priority 7 - Managing buildings and land for community benefit				
Deliver ongoing maintenance play area & open spaces and, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skilling Oval (transfer with costed plan). 	Existing revenue budget	BTC Grants Community Groups	Report on maintenance works. Annually	Town Surveyor* Project Manager E&SW
Implement a play area renovation programme. Priorities for this plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Court Orchard Play Area; • Cherry Tree Play Area. 	Existing revenue budget	BTC Grants Community Groups	Proposals developed with community engagement. 2026 Funding secured for re development. 2029	Town Surveyor* F&GP
Deliver ongoing management of council assets – e.g. Cemetery, open spaces, and buildings	Existing revenue budget	BTC	Reporting on asset management. Annually	Town Surveyor* F&GP
Develop land and building assets for community benefit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Football Club Car Park – resurfacing, landscaping and flood relief scheme promoted as the Park and Stride option. 	£250,000 capital and grants	BTC Grants	Phase 1 Football Club Car Park resurfacing completed. March 2025	Town Surveyor* F&GP
Develop land and building assets for community benefit.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Dairy Site into productive use. • Peter Foote - develop a proposal for renovation/ re use 	£500,000 capital and grants	BTC Grants	Proposals developed with community engagement, and planning approved. 2026 Funding secured for re development. 2029	Town Surveyor* F&GP
Implement a programme of energy conservation works on BTC assets. Priorities for this plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WI Hall refurbishment, • Mountfield Phase 2. 	C&EE action £75,000 £100,000	BTC Grants	Works completed. BTC GHG emissions reduced. 2029	Town Surveyor* F&GP

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Action	Priority/ Cost*	Funding sources	Measure Deliver by date	Responsible
Priority 8 - Securing the ongoing development of cultural and recreational facilities available in the town				
Identify a site and develop a funding proposal for a multi-use outdoor sports facility - 3 or 4G artificial pitch development.	£300,000 capital and grants	BTC FA grant	Site and funding secured. 2029	Town Surveyor* E&SW
Improve management of allotments across the Bridport area and undertake a review of criteria for allocation of plots.	Existing revenue budget	BTC	Report annually on no. of allotments let and length of waiting list.	Town Surveyor* E&SW
Consider need for expansion of our allotment offer.	£15,000	BTC	One new site 2027	
Undertake an assessment of need for additional Allotment spaces in the new enlarged Bridport Area.	£3,000 feasibility /planning	BTC	40 new allotment plots provided. 2028	Town Surveyor* E&SW
Priorities for influencing on behalf of the community				
Champion the building of affordable housing to meet defined local need – 1 and 2 bed units for social rent. Collaborate with Community Land Trusts to find and develop opportunities for social rent housing.	£10,000 feasibility /planning	BTC Grants	Increase in new social rent housing provided through retrofit or new build. 2029	Project Manager Planning
Support the improvement of infrastructure to cope with growing population, eg gaps in health and social care provision, sewerage and electricity capacity etc.	Existing revenue budget	BTC	New or improved infrastructure projects delivered. 2029	Town Clerk Planning
Encourage and support the increase of quality apprenticeships across all business sectors.	Existing revenue budget	Business Chamber Schools	Measurable increase in quality of apprenticeships on offer.	Project Manager E&SW

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Action	Priority/ Cost*	Funding sources	Measure Deliver by date	Responsible
Maximise the Town Council's influence over highway matters through support for community-generated requests for improvement as appropriate, and through liaison with Dorset Council and National Highways on strategic development of options for walking, cycling, and motoring.	Existing revenue budget	BTC	75% of requests agreed. 2029	Town Clerk Planning
Champion opportunities for young adults to develop skills and responsibilities in the arts and culture sector. Part of the Town of Culture Legacy.	Existing revenue budget	BTC	ToC legacy projects delivered. 2026	Project Manager E&SW
Encourage improved liaison between Housing Associations and their Bridport residents.	Existing revenue budget	BTC	Resident feedback. 2026	Project Manager E&SW
Champion retrofit initiatives with Housing Associations, private landlords, and developers. Work with others to encourage government to lift EPC ratings on private landlords across the town.	Existing revenue budget	BTC	Number of retrofit projects delivered. 2029	Project Manager E&SW
Work with Wessex Community Assets and local Community Land Trusts to support low carbon solutions for social housing, including retrofit and new build.	C&EE action Existing revenue budget		Number of social housing schemes completed. 2029	Project Manager E&SW
Support delivery of the Bridport Food Security Plan - land under horticultural production, new food enterprises and stronger local food supply chains. Potentially delivered through a new food and distribution hub with new marketing opportunities.	C&EE action Existing revenue budget		Hectares of new horticulture production. Number of new food enterprise start-ups. 2029	Project Manager E&SW
Champion food, clothing and furniture bank operations.	Existing revenue budget	BTC	Food Bank Groups recognise support provided. 2029	Town Clerk F&GP

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For the Environment - Action Plan 2024-2029				
Priority 9 - Ensuring green space are managed sustainably and deliver ecosystem services for all				
Action	Priority/ Cost*	Funding	Measure Deliver by Date	Responsible
Provide advice, resources and training to support volunteers with land management activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asker Meadows NR, • Millennium Green, • Community Orchard, • Allington Hillbillies, • Bradpole Buzzers, • Pymore Village Management Co. 	Existing revenue budget	BTC	Number of volunteers active within the groups supported Number of Environmental projects delivered Community feedback	Town Surveyor* Project Manager E&SW
Undertake a programme of management plan reviews. Priorities for this plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asker Meadows Local Nature Reserve, • Allington Hill, • Bradpole open spaces. 	Existing revenue budget	BTC	Asker Meadows Management Plan reviewed March 2025	Town Surveyor* Project Manager E&SW
Deliver a programme of works implementing management plans for open spaces: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand pond creation, • Tree and scrub management, Bothenhampton NR and Jellyfields, • Grassland management; Burton Road wildflowers, Coronation Meadow and Allington Hill. 	Existing revenue budget	BTC	Management plan reviews 2029	Town Surveyor* Project Manager E&SW
Invest in an industrial compost maker to deal with increasing volumes of arisings from land management work.	£40,000 capital	BTC	Funding secured and Composter operational 2027	Town Surveyor* E&SW
Invest in electric vehicles & tools for outdoor works team.	C&EE action £15,000	BTC Grant	Electric equipment replacing petrol/diesel 2029	Town Surveyor* F&GP

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Action	Priority/ Cost*	Funding	Measure Deliver by Date	Responsible
Priority 10 - Safeguarding heritage assets for future generations to enjoy				
Continue to implement Bridport Streetscape and Heritage Study recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake enhancement works driven by Town Centre Street de-cluttering project, West Bay street furniture audit and action plan. 	£15,000	BTC DC	Enhancement plan and funding secured. 2026 West Bay Audit completed. Autumn 2025	Town Surveyor* Project Manager E&SW
Priority 11 - Safeguarding the special landscape qualities of the Dorset National Landscape				
Support nature recovery led by Dorset National Landscape and engage in the review of their management plan.	£2,000 match funding	BTC	Nature recovery projects in the Bridport area. Consultation response submitted. 2025	Project Manager E&SW
Priority 12 - Valuing and promoting walking, cycling and public transport as alternatives to car use				
Develop Access & Movement Study options; 20 mph Gateways, cycle route extensions, cycling parking and Barrack Street pedestrianisation.	£5,000 feasibility	BTC DC	Develop project proposals and submit to Dorset Council. 2026	Town Surveyor* Project Manager E&SW
Priorities for influencing activities on behalf of the environment				
Work with Environment Agency and Wessex Water to improve the water quality of rivers and West Bay.	C&EE action N/A	BTC	Improvements in water quality. 2029	Project Manager E&SW
Engage with National Highways and Dorset Council over safe crossing of Sea Road South and associated linkage to walking and cycling network	C&EE action N/A	BTC National Highways DC	New crossing funded and delivered 2026	Town Surveyor* Planning
Secure coherent management and access to the River Brit riverside corridor as part of St Michaels re development.	£5,000	BTC Hayward	Single management plan agreed. 2026	Town Surveyor* Planning
Be an active partner in developing the Brit river catchment landscape recovery plan.	Existing revenue budget	BTC	Consultation response submitted. Measurable benefits to BTC land holdings. 2029	Project Manager E&SW

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For a Well-Run Council (Best Value) - Action Plan 2024-2029				
Priority 13 - Building organisational resilience & Legal and regulatory compliance including succession planning				
Action	Priority/ Cost*	Funding sources	Measure Deliver by date	Responsible
Keep under review the staffing required to manage assets and services. Priority for this plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retirement of Town Surveyor and other key council officers, Lengthsman Scheme, Support for warded arrangements. 	£40,000 pa	BTC	Reallocation of Town Surveyor duties. Sept 2025 March 2025	Town Clerk F&GP
Continue a programme of reviewing BTC leases and update accordingly. Priority for this Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land registry information reviewed. 	Existing revenue budget	BTC	All BTC land and property interests properly registered. 2025	Town Surveyor* F&GP
Embed changes arising from Community Governance Review, including ward arrangements.	Existing revenue budget	Existing revenue budgets	Objectives set out in transition plan. April 2025	Town Clerk Full Council
Induction and training for councillors.	Existing revenue budget	Existing revenue budgets	Induction Day delivered. Additional training in Planning, Finance, Chairing, etc. delivered 2025	Town Clerk
Review of BTC banking arrangements and investments, including ethical banking.	Existing revenue budget	Existing revenue budgets	New ethical banking in place. Signatories updated. 2025	Finance & Office Manager F&GP
Review of Service Level Agreement-supported funding arrangements.	Existing revenue budget	Existing revenue budgets	Existing SLAs reviewed and new added arising from CGR. October 2024 and annually from then on.	Town Clerk F&GP
Maintain and develop support for town councillors and the democratic process.	Existing revenue budget	Existing revenue budgets	Monitor councillor and community feedback. Report annually	Town Clerk F&GP

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Action	Priority/ Cost*	Funding sources	Measure Deliver by date	Responsible
Priority 14 - Using innovation, technology and new ways of working to improve value for money and efficiency in Council services				
Review of Town Council social media channel(s) including investment in improved website.	£6,000	BTC	Social media policy in place as part of community engagement strategy. Autumn 2025	Project Manager F&GP
Continue transition to a digital council with all relevant services being available online, whilst maintaining ready access to traditional channels.	£3,000	BTC	Two digital solutions implemented to supplement traditional channels. 2029	Town Clerk F&GP
Telecommunications – upgrade phone system due to analogue ‘switch-off’	Existing revenue budget	Existing revenue budgets/reserve funds	Fully VOIP phone system implemented. January 2026	Town Clerk F&GP
Upgrade fibre to the premises (FTTP) when available.	£1,000 pa	BTC	FTTP installed. 2026	Town Clerk F&GP
Develop Bridport Communities Trust – including setting up bank account and Charity Commission registration	£25,000 pa	BTC	Dedicated admin support and bank account in place, and Trust registered. December 2024	Finance & Office Manager F&GP
Priority 15 – Actively engage citizens in the running of the Town				
Agree a corporate and ward-level community engagement strategy, including youth engagement. Ward based experimentation of different approaches to ensuring that our communities are informed and engaged in council business.	Existing revenue budget	Existing revenue budgets	Strategy document agreed. April 2026	Project Manager F&GP
Maintain support for civic activity, including to the Town Mayor.	Existing revenue budget	Existing revenue budgets	Civic duties delivered.	TEM Manager F&GP
Maintain a face-to-face Town Council reception and information point at Mountfield.	Existing revenue budget	Existing revenue budgets	Number of customers/information requests dealt with. Reported annually	Town Clerk F&GP

* Town Surveyor role will be reallocated as part of retirement planning during 2025.

BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL COUNCIL PLAN 2024-2029

Project proposals not included in this plan period as either addressed in other agreed actions or inappropriate/ unachievable for BTC:

Proposed	Cost*	Rationale for not including in this plan
Support Bridport Indoor Bowls Club to relocate	N/A	Rejected by councillors at informal drafting stage
Build social rent homes	£1m	BTC not best placed to deliver housing – influencing is better suited
Continue to pursue asset transfer opportunities to provide meeting and workspace for Community Groups	£15k pa	BTC resources unable to adequately cover more property management
Support production of a feasibility study for a Sea Water Fed Lido at West Bay	£10k	BTC not best placed to lead this project – Refer to Harbour Master
Support development of solar/wind power installations in the Bridport area – e.g. Industrial estates.	???	BANP climate policy and BTC Climate emergency Action Plan already provides for this ambition
Encourage and support parents and children to reduce smartphone use – a campaign	£500	BTC not best placed to lead this project – potentially a separate Mayoral campaign?
Explore option of developing a gallery space in the Grove	£2k	BTC not best placed to lead this project and no current space available
Explore community use of former Sunny Days building	N/A	Previously pursued without success, and building sold, a poor use of capacity.
Extend community bus service beyond Bridport	£20k pa	Not a priority for this plan period
Northern by-pass	???	BTC not best placed to lead this project, and not a realistic aspiration?
Buy Watton Hill (for nature reserve/affordable houses)	£1m+	Beyond reasonable financial/fundraising capacity, and not for sale
Build an iconic office space to attract a hi-tech company	£2m+	BTC not best placed to lead this project, and not identified as a priority in the Bridport Investment Plan
Shower/changing room facility for sea swimmers	£200k	Not a priority for this plan period – under consideration by Harbour Master
Employ a Dog Warden	£40k pa	Dorset Council responsibility
Compulsory purchase of empty properties	???	BTC has no powers to do this – Dorset Council responsibility
Reinstall railway line	£200m	BTC not best placed to lead this project, and not a priority for this plan period
Play area in town with a café	£200k	Not a priority for this plan period
Park & Ride facility	£500k	Not a priority for this plan period
Expand and consolidate Place St Vaast La Hougue	N/A	Not a priority for this plan period
Start a sailing club at West Bay	???	Not a Town Council priority
Feasibility study for a community heating system	£20k	BTC not best placed to lead this project – Dorset Community energy?
Electric car/bike hire scheme	£80k + £6k pa	Scheme previously developed. Not pursued due to high costs and limited scope.
Pedestrianise West Bay Esplanade	N/A	BTC has no powers to do this – Dorset Council responsibility