

## HEXHAM TOWN COUNCIL ACTION PLAN 2021-2025

### Work towards revitalising the Town Centre

Objective	Actions	Committee and Lead Person(s)	Success Criteria (SC)	Priority
Progress HSHAZ	Work with NCC on the Heritage Action Zone to revitalise the primary shopping area based on heritage led regeneration.	Mostly CE (Councillors Cessford, Fairless-Aitken, Grennan and Kennedy)	Obtain SC from HSHAZ.	High
Celebrate Hexham's heritage	Consider heritage projects throughout Hexham	Mostly P&I	Better signage, etc.	High
Work towards making the Market Place more attractive to shoppers and successful for traders	Investigate new market management strategies. Investigate making the Market Place traffic free for market days and events. Find ways of having more stalls. Investigate the possibility of more events in the Market Place.	Mostly CE	More visitors. Recognised as the best market in Northumberland. Positive feedback at Council market stall.	High
Try to encourage more self-support among Hexham businesses	Encourage businesses to form mutually beneficial forums for discussion and cooperation.	F&GP/CE	Business increases for local businesses.	High
Work towards filling empty shops	Investigate a Meanwhile Spaces approach to empty shops (working with owners of the buildings and finding temporary renters).	F&GP/CE	Increase occupancy of empty shops.	High
	HTC to consider renting a shop/office for a year, providing it free to startup businesses on a short	F&GP/CE	Continuous occupancy of a currently empty shop.	High (2022/2023)

	term basis. HTC uses it as an office.		HTC more accessible.	
	HTC considers providing a market stall to startup businesses on a monthly basis. email clerk@htc to apply.	F&GP/CE	Continuous use of an extra market stall.	High (2021/2022)
Clean the town	Set up Friends of the Town. Includes parks for litter picking etc.	P&I	Constituents comment that town is cleaner/smarter.	High
Increase public participation	Investigate setting up a Town Forum.	CE	Forum meets regularly.	
	Investigate setting up an Arts Forum.	CE	Forum meets regularly.	
Investigate setting up Local social enterprises	Training is undertaken and information gathered.	CE (Councillor Smith)	Clear information is available re method and costs to HTC.	

### Progress the sustainability action plan

Objective	Actions	Committee and Lead Person(s)	Success criteria	Priority
Protect and enhance the biodiversity in Hexham	Work with HS4N to implement its tree management plan for parks and the town.	P&I	Hexham has a viable tree management plan.	High (2022/2023)
	Work with HS4N to review the cemetery management plan.	P&I (Clerk, Councillor Ord)	New cemetery management plan is created.	High
	Work with HS4N, Hexham in Bloom, NCC, residents' associations and other stakeholders to make insect friendly flowerbeds.	P&I (Councilors Baty, O'Farrell and Ord)	More beds with more biodiverse-friendly planting.	
	Council stops using glyphosate.	P&I (Councillor Ord, Operations Manager)	No glyphosate is used by HTC in Hexham.	Completed
Reduce carbon use by the town council	Investigate solar panel installation at the cemetery.	P&I (Councillor Ord, Clerk)	Full cost analysis and permissions in place.	

	Investigate air source heat pump installation at the cemetery.	P&I (Councillor Ord, Clerk)	Full cost analysis and permissions in place.	High
Measure the carbon footprints of the town council and Hexham as a whole	Work with NCC to produce and analyse the data - Started	P&I (Clerk, Councillor Ord)	Carbon footprint of HTC as an organisation is measured. Whole town carbon footprint is measured.	High
Reduce Allotment waiting list	Research the possibility of more sites. Encourage involvement in gardening partnering scheme (Grow Hexham).	P&I (Councillor Grennan)	Grow Hexham gains crowdfunding support from North of Tyne Mayor. Allotment waiting list is reduced.	
Encourage close cooperation between Allotment Association and HTC	Create allotment guidance booklet. Councillor joins allotment association.	P&I (Councillors Hartland and Ord)	Regular communication between QBAA and HTC.	
Work with NCC re its climate policy implementation	Encourage existing and create new climate action groups in Hexham. HTC to act as liaison between groups and NCC.	P&I/CE	NCC's climate policy is implemented so far as Hexham is concerned.	High

## Support Tourism

Objective	Actions	Committee and Lead Person(s)	Success Criteria	Priority
Arrange events in the Market and Town	Prepare to celebrate 800 years anniversary of the Market in 2022. Commemorate the Hexham Massacre (9 March 1761).	CE	Successful events.	High
	Queen's Jubilee	CE		
	Closer working with HCP	CE		High
	Work with Public Arts for regular events	CE		
	Audition Bellman	CE (Councillor Ball)	Bellman vacancy is filled.	
	Arrange Remembrance event in remembrance of those lost at war.	CE (Sub-Committee, Clerk, Councillor Williscroft-Ferris)	Event takes place.	
	Consider The Arrival of Hadrian Anniversary in 2022 – liaise with NCC's plan.	CE	HTC collaborates with NCC on event.	
	More Bandstand events	CE (Councillor Grennan?)	Bandstand events are increased.	High
	Co-ordinating and communicating the Hexham events (e.g. calendar on website?)	CE	An easy to access calendar of events is well used.	High
	Admin to create project plan including seeing what other Towns are doing.	Admin Officer	Project plan created.	
Work towards developing a more ambitious Christmas / Winter Lights event	Contact Artichoke, Partnership and Abbey re Hexham Lumiere or more extensive lights event.	CE (Clerk)	Full costings provided and feasibility understood.	2022/23
Work towards Dark Sky Town Status		P&I (Councillor Fairless-Aitken)	Town Dark Sky status achieved.	Long term plan
Improve toilet provision in the town	Continue discussions with NCC regarding demolition of existing toilet block behind QH and installation of new toilets.	P&I/F&GP (Councillors Hartland and Kennedy)	Fewer complaints about toilet provision from the public.	High

Increase footfall in old shopping areas	Research a summer land train for 2022 which would link Bunker Site parking, Wentworth, Station and Market Place.	P&I (Councillor Ord)	Full cost analysis and feasibility study provided.	High 2022
Tourism Strategy	Review and revise the existing policy if necessary	CE		Medium
	Modernise and add information boards across the town.	CE	More information clearly provided in an accessible way.	High

<b>Gain quality status for the Council</b>
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<b>Objective</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Committee and Lead Person(s)</b>	<b>Success criteria</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Community Involvement	Encourage and facilitate more community involvement in the work of the Council.	CE	Community speaking at meetings.	High - 2023
	Continue Market Stall consultation with the public.	CE (All Councillors)	Engagement. Understanding priorities of the public.	High
	Set up a young persons' forum.	CE (Councillors Grennan, Fairless-Aitken and Williscroft-Ferris)	Forum meets regularly.	
	Review and improve the links with Hexham Community Partnership.	CE	Closer collaboration.	
Training	All Councillors to attend at least one training session.	All Councillors	Each Councillor gives brief feedback on course attended.	

### Retain Green Flag Award for Cemetery

Objective	Actions	Committee and Lead Person(s)	Success criteria	Priority
Maintain the Cemetery infrastructure	Repaint the gates, doors etc in the cemetery where required.	P&I (Clerk)	Infrastructure is sound, clean and well maintained (repainting completed summer 2021).	
Review Cemetery management plan	Review existing and consider additions/changes suggested by HS4N	P&I (Clerk)		
Increase community use	Creating a nature trail with Hexham in Bloom.	CE/P&I (Councillor O'Farrell)	Nature trail is created and publicised.	
Improve publicity	Revise information packs and marketing of the Cemetery.	CE		

### Work towards more affordable housing

Objective	Action	Committee and Lead Person(s)	Success criteria	Priority
Work with Partners	Consider derelict sites in the town with Karbon Homes.	CE/NP		
	Work with Hexham Community Led Housing.	NP		
Use the Neighbourhood Plan	Encourage empty commercial buildings or spaces above shops to be repurposed as affordable homes.	NP (Councillors Baty and Domingue)		
Bring Police Houses into use.	Work with relevant agencies to upgrade empty police houses.	NP (Councillor Kennedy)	Houses are used as affordable homes.	
Old Bus Station	Setup a Community Led Partnership as a vehicle for building affordable housing on site.	NP (Councillors Baty and Domingue)	Community Led Partnership is set up.	
Former HMS site	Modify the Hexham Neighbourhood Plan to include the former Hexham Middle School site.	NP (Councillors Fairless-Aitken, O'Farrell and Ord)	In HNP.	High

**Ensure Cemetery does not run at a loss**

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Committee and Lead Person(s)</b>	<b>Success criteria</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Make the Cemetery financially independent of the precept	Ascertain the cost of each burial and charge appropriately.	P&I/F&GP (Clerk)	HTC precept no longer subsidises costs of burials.	

**Improve the Skatepark/sports facilities**

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Committee and Lead Person(s)</b>	<b>Success criteria</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Improve facilities	Work with Hexham Youth Initiative to improve the skatepark surface, etc.	P&I/F&GP (Clerk)	Feedback from users	High

**Long term objectives: Redevelopment of Bus Station, Ropery and Middle School site**