



Andover Town Council

To **note** a report on work done with TVBC to improve the Town Centre and make it safer and more welcoming.

Item
No.

Produced for: Full Council

By: Acting Town Clerk

Date of Report: 3 April 2025

Background:

Cllrs Neate, Bird, Horsnell and the Acting Town Clerk met with TVBC and the BID to discuss a potential solution to the issue of the dangerous and degrading and overall appearance of buildings in Andover Town Centre.

Further information:

The suggestion is that a grant be made available to landlords that can be used to make the necessary improvements to create a safe and welcoming Town Centre for the residents and visitors to Andover. The mechanism behind the grant and its delivery is still in discussion, further information will be brought to Full Council. It is also hoped that the grant will be used to carry out work, that is identified by TVBC, ATC and the BID, prior to it getting to a critical point.

Why have ATC been involved so far?

Residents approached their Andover Town Council Ward Councillors with concerns regarding the buildings on the High Street that are in a bad and dangerous state and there has long been concern regarding the appearance of building fronts in Andover Town Centre.

At the Full Council meeting on the 19 March 2025 the following was agreed:

C409/03/25 Members returned to the substantive motion. **RESOLVED:** FOR – 8, AGAINST – 0, ABSTENTIONS – 3, that with effect from 1st April 2025, the revised Business Plan for 2025/2027 be adopted.

From the adopted Business Plan:

1. Help make Andover a welcoming, safe, and well cared for town.

ATC has the following Powers:

Under s137 of the Local Government Act 1972 which allows a local authority (which for these purposes includes a Town/Parish Council) to incur expenditure which in their opinion is in the *interests of and will bring direct benefits to their area, any part of it or some of their inhabitants.*

On discussion of the topic with our Internal Auditor: s137 allows a Parish Council to give another authority money which will go towards a project that will benefit the area or inhabitants.

So far this has been a great opportunity for ATC to work with TVBC and the BID towards an end goal that provides a tangible and positive result for Andover Town Centre.