

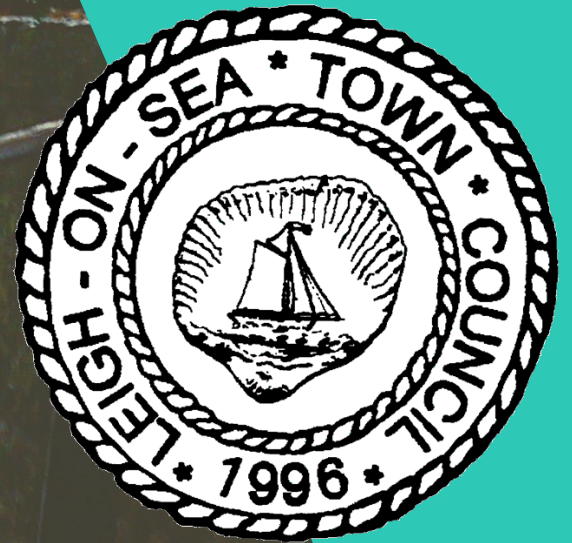
LEIGH-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

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# STRATEGIC PLAN



2019 - 2023

TOWN CLERK | HELEN SYMMONS



# FOREWORD

This document provides an outline of the discussions that have taken place within the Council from January to October 2018 in shaping a strategic plan for the period of 2019 to 2023.

A new Council will be appointed in May 2019, and this strategic plan will help to drive our short and long-term goals and to inform our budget-setting and expenditure.

It clearly explains to Councillors, staff, residents, businesses and our partners exactly what the Council intends to achieve over the next four years.

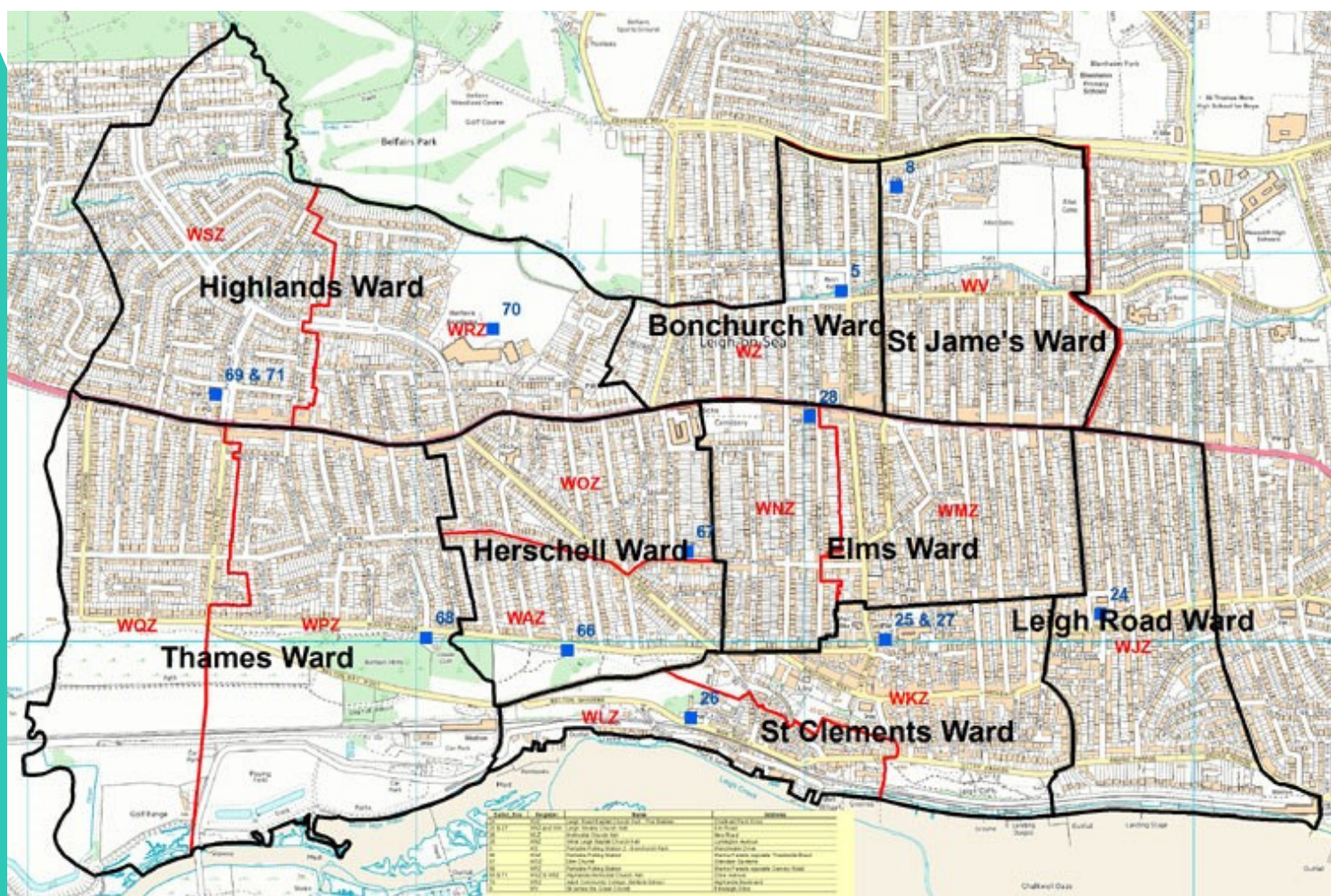
The plan will be regularly reviewed to ensure that progress is being made.

The Councillors and Council Officers are excited to deliver this plan and are determined to ensure that Leigh-on-Sea remains a town that delivers quality services to our residents, local businesses, visitors and the wider community.

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# WARD MAP



## COUNCILLORS

The Council area is split into eight wards. Ordinary elections to be a Councillor on Leigh-on-Sea Town Council take place every four years, unless a casual vacancy arises during this time. The councillors are distributed within the wards as so:

- Bonchurch Ward - 1 Councillor
- Elms Ward - 3 Councillors
- Highlands Ward - 3 Councillors
- Herschell Ward - 2 Councillors
- Leigh Road Ward - 2 Councillors
- St James' Ward - 1 Councillor
- St Clement's Ward - 2 Councillors
- Thames Ward - 2 Councillors

# INTRODUCTION

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council was formed in 1996. It is the only parished Council within the Southend-on-Sea Borough, and the first tier of local Government. Historically there had been an independent Leigh-on-Sea Urban District Council that ceased to exist in 1913. Today Southend-on-Sea Borough Council is the primary unitary authority for Leigh.

In 2018, the Town Council was awarded Quality Council status by the National Association of Local Councils. Being a quality council acknowledges good practice in governance, community engagement, efficient monitoring and evaluation of Council procedures, finances and budgets, going above and beyond legal obligations and identifying opportunities to initiate further improvements.

Leigh-on-Sea is an active and vibrant working town with a separate and distinctive identity but it is also an integral part of the larger urban community of Southend-on-Sea. In 2016 and 2018 Leigh-on-Sea was voted the happiest place to live by a Rightmove survey.

In the 2011 census, there were 22,509 residents living in the parished area of Leigh-on-Sea and in total there were 10,352 household spaces with a density of 43 people per hectare. The median age of a resident was 41 years old. In 2017, the electorate totaled just over 17,000.

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to represent the people of Leigh-on-Sea and to protect and promote the heritage and identity of Leigh-on-Sea in order to preserve the Town for current residents and to provide a legacy for future generations.

Our values underpin our decisions and actions. We aspire to be:

**Efficient and Effective:** Delivering services, ensuring value for money and evaluating the impact of our actions

**Open and Democratic:** Consulting with local residents and organisations in appropriate decision making

**Proactive and Innovative:** Finding solutions and acting in the best interests of local people

**Diligent:** Complying fully with legislation associated with local government, equal opportunities, health and safety and approved governance procedures



# COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

As of May 2019 the Council comprises of four main committees. These committees are decision making bodies, which set the budget and decides how funds are spent. Council meetings are open to the public, and are held at Leigh Community Centre.

## **Finance & Governance**

To develop, monitor and review Council policies and functions and review the Council's accounts and finances.

## **Staffing**

To consider and deal with all matters affecting staffing issues except where the overall staffing budget will be exceeded. In such cases the Committee will make a recommendation to the Finance & Governance Committee.

## **Community**

To consider and develop all leisure, foreshore and environmental matters relating to the Council's business. Responsibility for all Council premises and assets and for supporting the operation of the Leigh Community Centre (LCC) and considering their further development and the development of other facilities.

## **Planning, Highways & Licensing**

To make observations where appropriate on all planning applications within the Council area and Government and Borough Council planning consultations and to make site visits where necessary.

To make observations on any Licensing application within the Council area the Committee thinks appropriate.

To make observations on any relevant Highway issue referred from or being discussed by the Highway Authority.

# OUR PROVISION

The work of Council through the separate committees contributes to four main areas:

## **ARTS, CULTURE AND LEISURE**

- Town Events - such as Leigh Lights
- Artist in Residence & Community Art Wall
- Grant Award Scheme
- Community Transport & Over 60's Social Club
- School Holiday Activities
- Farmers' Market
- Youth Club & Annual Youth Market
- Promote health & wellbeing through activities at Community Centre

## **ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE**

- Planning
- Highways
- Licensing
- Hanging flower baskets and Christmas lighting

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- Website
- Social Media
- Volunteer Scheme
- Leigh-on-Sea Town Council Magazine
- Notice Boards
- Annual Community Meeting
- Good for Leigh Awards

## **COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

- Leigh Community Centre
- Allotments
- Special Police Constables
- Skate park
- Strand Wharf
- First Aid Post
- School Crossing



# ABOUT THE STRATEGIC PLAN

The complex, challenging issues and changing circumstances faced by the local community require the Council to identify relevant, pertinent strategic objectives that will be understood by the residents and drive action in order to make progress towards the desired outcomes for Leigh-on-Sea. It is anticipated that a new structure will facilitate more interaction between the various committees and draw on the wide range of expertise and local knowledge held by members of the Council.

The four year plan has three core priorities and an overarching aspiration of "improving the quality of town life."

Over the next four years delivery of actions highlighted by our three core priorities will be both exciting and challenging. The Councillors and Council Officers are looking forward to delivering the new Strategic Plan for 2019 - 2023 and are determined to ensure that Leigh-on-Sea continues to remain a town that delivers quality services to communities, residents and people who work in and visit the town.

## THE OBJECTIVES

- 1** To be proactive in creating effective partnership working between Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and Leigh-on-Sea Town Council to ensure a shared vision for Leigh-on-Sea
- 2** To identify community facilities that would enhance the quality of life of local residents and to explore ways of securing the necessary resources with minimum impact on the precept
- 3** To raise awareness of local environmental issues and to create opportunities for residents to engage with Leigh-on-Sea Town Council in finding and implementing solutions

# 01

## To be proactive in creating effective partnership working between Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and Leigh Town Council to ensure a shared vision for Leigh-on-Sea

- Economic support for local business and traders through the Leigh Partnership Group
- Through the Old Leigh Spatial Plan aid development of Southend-on-Sea Borough Council Local Plan and stakeholders interests to attract future investment in Leigh Port
- Restoration of the Belvedere viewing platform in partnership with Southend-on-Sea Borough Council
- Remain pro-active in assisting Southend-on-Sea Borough Council with the rejuvenation of Leigh Library Gardens through the Friends of Leigh Library Garden Campaign
- Launch a Friends of Bonchurch Park campaign with the help of Southend-on-Sea Borough Council
- Through Make Southend Sparkle support litter picking campaigns and awareness throughout the Town and find solutions to litter issue
- Proactive involvement in the emerging Local Plan by Southend-on-Sea Borough Council
- Councillors to accept any training opportunities from Southend-on-Sea Borough Council
- Foster good working relationships between Leigh-on-Sea Town Council Officers and Southend-on-Sea Borough Council Councillors and Officers.



**To identify community facilities that would enhance the quality of life of local residents and to explore ways of securing the necessary resources with minimum impact on the precept**

- Ongoing repairs and remodel of Leigh Community Centre to create a better community facility
- Identifying and completing effective projects for the community that meet the Community Infrastructure Levy criteria
- Engage in opportunities to provide and/or promote community facilities for the youth
- Be open to community initiatives at the Allotment sites
- Create a programme of excursions through the Community Transport Scheme for disabled and elderly residents
- Raise awareness, promote and enhance Council events, activities and markets in the Town
- Refurbishment and extension of the Skate Park to provide better facilities
- Councillor led Art Group to organise Artist in Residence and art wall exhibitions
- Sponsorship of hanging baskets and Christmas lighting to enable improvements and extensions of the schemes.

# 03

**To raise awareness of local environmental issues and to create opportunities for residents to engage with Leigh Town Council in finding and implementing solutions**

- Use the Leigh-on-Sea Town Council Magazine to engage with residents and to promote and interact with external organisations
- Actively promote and be a part of the Friends of Library Gardens initiative and create interest for a Friends of Bonchurch Park group
- Actively promote and be a part of litter picking campaigns
- Promote Leigh-on-Sea Town Council and local environmental issues with engagement at events
- Art exhibitions to heighten awareness of environmental issues where appropriate



# CHECKING PROGRESS

The aim is for this Strategic Plan to help drive the Council forward over the next four years, delivering the vision of "improving the quality of town life."

The actions contained within the Strategic Plan 2019 - 2023 will be regularly monitored to ensure progress on delivering the three core priority outcomes.

Progress will be reported to the Council via committees on a regular basis to help monitor performance.

The Council will update the public on the progress of the strategic plan through the Leigh-on-Sea Town Council Magazine, website and social media pages.

## **EVALUATION, MONITORING & REVIEW**

- Evaluation of Strategic Objectives 2022
- Evaluation of Strategic Plan 2023
- Monitoring undertaken by the Town Clerk
- Reviewed by Committees and Working Groups

Images Courtesy of  
Pg 1 - Linda Paul  
Pg 7 - Mark Taylor  
Pg 8 - Neil Fendell  
Pg 10 - Alfie Winters  
Pg 11 - Linda Paul

For more information about the work we do contact...



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Events**



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