

TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL
Review of 2025-26

What we set out to do	What we did	Commentary
New: LGR/ Localism including protecting the strategic assets of the town	The Council has reviewed the position in Tavistock, identified strategic assets benefitting the community which could be at risk post reorganisation, and sought to work with the key stakeholder to promote proposals to protect the community interest.	Key stakeholder disengaged, information requested in 2025 not yet provided
ADDRESS Funding Gap Immediate: in-year mgm't of expenditure to restore revenue pressures	Prudent financial mgm't. Savings made &/or spend deferred where possible.	The General Reserve has been restored and minimum requirements now met. However, see below regarding challenges in connection with capital reserves.
ADDRESS Funding Gap – Ongoing discipline to secure a minimum 'safe' unallocated reserve for unforeseen repairs/ works of £500,000	Continuing care taken in the application of monies to priority capital projects to ensure best value and prudent spend and avoidance of future allocations to non-core spend. That includes making some projects conditional on external funding (see below). Current - proposed that any one-off underspends be designated toward localism EMR (as previously endorsed in principle) and main premises sinking funds to protect and preserve council assets.	Last year it was reported the target has not yet been met and increased costs could be anticipated, inter alia, general repair costs, energy efficient measures, emergency wks, and any localism initiatives. It was recognised failure to sufficiently resource reserves can prejudice capacity in these and other areas. Current - if endorsed the EMR and sinking fund proposals opposite will provide positive preliminary steps in the remediation cycle.
Public Conveniences (Guildhall WC's) taking on service	Negotiations with the administering authority.	Matters approaching finalisation subject to agreement on terms – originally part of the localism workstream
Planning for the future	NDP supported including to ratification by the Local Planning Authority In addition preliminary consideration of whether, in light of changed national policies, a review of aspects of the NP might be appropriate.	The delivery of the NDP to time/budget by the Steering Group with Council support was commendable. As referred to over investigations are now progressing regarding benefits/drawbacks/scope of any potential review.
Development and introduction of Property	To identify & programme the long term on-going work on properties + planned repairs	Initiation pending, review by General Manager of related issues re aspects of property management commenced

Maintenance Plan		
Market Test Legal Services	To secure a longer term arrangement	Retendered previously - agreement to extend the current contract to normal term.
Market Test exercise regarding Surveyor Services	To test the Market	To be commenced on completion of outstanding long term property matter – expected this year
Updating of records and publication requirements	Compliance and good practice	Part of the regulatory/compliance backlog addressed elsewhere on the Agenda
Long Leases (public)	Sought to achieve solution that benefits the Town and secures support of key stakeholders	Unlikely to be capable of progress prior to local government reorganisation
Long leases (private)	Proceedings complete	Agreement on triennial review for one being sought.
Outstanding Tenancy Matter (Debtor)	Completed proceedings for non-payment of rent and other breaches	Premises re-let
New Energy Perf Certificates + related matters	completed EPC and DPC's	Reserves being developed to meet statutory obligations (see elsewhere on this agenda)
Martyn's Law (Protect Duty)	Prepare for new requirements	Statutory guidance recently issued and relevant managers are now developing necessary arrangements
Medium Term Financial Strategy	To develop a MTFs to assist with financial planning	In abeyance given uncertainties around inflation and related matters. To some extent also a dependency contingent on property maintenance plan. In the meantime cash flow is being monitored on a monthly basis (working on a 12month plan period).
Abbey Remains (Betsy Grimbal's Tower*)	Successful grant applications to National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic England. Professional services procurement undertaken and contractor (building works) in hand	Part of a potentially wider project to reinstate and repair. Project initiated, hard deadline for some works of November 2026.
Multi Use Wheeled Sports Area	Continuing to work with stakeholder group who are leading on funding	Understood a crowd funder has been issued by the funding lead body
Participate in Community Economic Plan Initiative	Agreed involvement and Members designated	Initiation from WDBC (originally scheduled for Nov 2025), awaited
UK Town of Culture	Agreed to support and act as local lead to stage 1 community led application	Outcome of application awaited.
Renters Rights Act	Preparation and notifications etc to Tenants	A major reform of the residential rented sector

Supporting Tavistock BID Renewal	Collaboration on various initiatives plus match funding support with principal authority toward renewal costs	Key local partner
Whitchurch Down Management Plan	Reviewed and completed	Contributing to good practice and land management.
Council Energy Contracts	Re-tendered	To provide predictability and savings around cost base

- * Indicates in-year project
- ** ie non-Business as Usual Activities