

## Policy & Resources Committee

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>2 August 2016</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>SODC Economic Development Projects Update</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Graham Hunt, Town Clerk</b>

### Purpose of this Report

1. To provide an update on previously discussed SODC Economic Development Projects.

### Projects

2. **A new Integrated Thame Business website.** The plan is still to bolt this on as an addition to the now live new Town Council website. The agreed £11,000 has been earmarked. The project is delayed through the departure of the Community Project Officer. Execution is now likely to be jointly by the still to be recruited replacement Community Project Support Officer, working with the still to be recruited Market Town Co-Ordinator.
3. **Vibrancy and Vitality study.** The report from Miller Research UK was received at the Neighbourhood Plan Continuity Committee (NPCC) meeting on 17 May 2016 and the final report was published in early June. The report includes a whole set of recommendations, which will drive the work of both the NPCC Town Centre Working Group and the Market Town Co-Ordinator.
4. **Midsomer Murders projects.**
  - a) The Great British High Street (GBHS) team organised business workshop held on 22 June 2016 to encourage businesses to take maximum advantage, as in other “Midsomer” towns, was well attended, well received and got good media coverage, including of the Causton Town Hall sign. A follow-up pack has been circulated by the GBHS team.
  - b) A separate proposal for further Midsomer Murders related work has been received from Tourism Angles and is awaiting the recruitment of a Market Town Co-Ordinator to assess further.
  - c) Council granted permission on 24 May 2016 for the installation of Midsomer Murder filming location plaques on relevant Town Council buildings. The GBHS team is progressing planning permission.
5. **Open Doors.** A successful event, part funded by the Town Council and SODC, took place on Saturday 9 July 2016.
6. **Feather Flags.** The provision for feather flags to be flown at the town boundary signs has now been implemented with the Open Doors event being the first user.
7. **Market Town Co-ordinator.** Following the recommendation in the Vibrancy and Vitality study that a Market Town Co-Ordinator is recruited, the NPCC meeting on 17 May 2016 authorised that recruitment. A Job Description and Person Specification has been circulated widely for review. Advertising will shortly commence, initially via the website / free local media and through the Association of Town and City Managers. If necessary, further paid for advertising will be inserted in local free newspapers for the last 2-3 weeks of the recruitment campaign. SODC will also be involved in the recruitment and the role will now report into the Community Services Manager, who will also be involved. An additional £7,480 of funding has been earmarked to assist the role.

### Action Required:

8. To note the report.