

Policy & Resources Committee

Date:	16 February 2016
Title:	SODC Economic Development Projects Update
Contact Officer:	Graham Hunt, Town Clerk
Purpose of this Report	

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

Projects

2. **A new Integrated Thame Business website.** A bid for capital funds to SODC was not successful and alternative funding sources are being investigated, on top of the £5,000 committed by Thame Town Council. This will delay the project.
3. **Town Centre Wi-Fi initiative.** Initially rejected, but was re-opened for further investigation at the Council meeting on 27 October 2015. Various discussions with various interested parties have been held since, but nothing concrete as yet.
4. **Vibrancy and Vitality study.** A scoping document seeking fee proposals by 10 February 2016 has been widely circulated. Ten proposals have been received and are being considered.
5. **Small Business Saturday.** Planned, managed and operated by 21st Century Thame, the event was well received and noted as one of the widest ranging of its kind in Oxfordshire. Plans are underway for SBS 2016.
6. **Feather flag project.** Funds have been secured via a bid to SODC, and matched by Thame Town Council.
7. **Causton Town Hall sign.** Now available for photo opportunities.
8. **Electronic sign at the bus stop adjacent to the Town Hall.** No further progress, but still on the list for further specification / funding establishment.
9. **Electricity supply points in the market area.** No further progress, but still on the list for further specification / funding establishment.
10. **2016-17 projects:**
 - a) Market Town Co-ordinator. Investigations underway.
 - b) Lea Park Signage. On hold till s106 monies materialise.
 - c) Saturday market. No further progress.
 - d) Art Projects (including cow refurbishment). No further progress.
11. **£4,300 of unallocated SODC funding for other revenue projects in 2015-16.** Now match funded by the Town Council. No specific suggestions for other projects (perhaps marketing related?) have been received, but this may become part of the solution for the integrated Thame Business website. Efforts will be made to earmark for use beyond 31/3/16.

Action Required:

12. To note the report.