



Garstang Town Council

Town Clerk: Mrs E Parry

Tel: 07592 792 801

Email: clerk@garstangtowncouncil.gov.uk

Web: www.garstangtowncouncil.gov.uk

Garstang Scout and Guide

Headquarters

Kepple Lane

Garstang

PR3 1PB

Full Council Meeting, 20th October 2025 Agenda

Councillors and members of the press & public

You are summoned to attend the meeting of the Council to consider the items detailed on the attached agenda.

The meeting will be held at Garstang library,
Windsor Road, Garstang, PR3 1EX
on Monday, 20 October 2025 at 7.30pm.

Members of the public and press are invited to attend the meeting

Please contact the Clerk by 13.00, Monday, 20 October 2025, to express your interest in attending the meeting. This helps Council answer your questions on the evening.

Recording of Public Council Meetings

Please be aware that the public meeting may be recorded for the accuracy of the minutes.

As per standing orders 12g; for any meeting that has been recorded the recording will be kept for a period of 6 months after the minutes have been approved as accurate before the recording is deleted.

E Parry

Town Clerk

15th October 2025

Agenda

- 1) **Apologies for absence**
To receive apologies for absence.
- 2) **Declaration of Interests and Dispensations**
To receive disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests and dispensation requests from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting. All Councillors living within the Township of Garstang have a dispensation to discuss the precept and budget item.
- 3) **Public participation**
The Mayor will ask Councillors to agree to adjourn the meeting to allow non-Councillors to speak and will ask Councillors to agree to reconvene the meeting on the conclusion of the public participation.
The Clerk is reminding Councillors of standing orders applying to public question time:
 - 3e Members of the public may make representations, answer questions and give evidence at a meeting which they are entitled to attend in respect of the business on the agenda.
 - 3h In accordance with standing order 3(e), a question shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The chairman of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given.
 - 3f The period of time designated for public participation at a meeting in accordance with standing order 3(e) shall not exceed 15 minutes unless directed by the chairman of the meeting.
- 4) **Announcements – for information**
- 5) **Minutes of the last meeting – for decision**
Councillors are asked to approve, as a correct record the [minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2025](#).
- 6) **Finance payments, Clerk/RFO – for decision**
Councillors are asked to approve the payments, detailed vouchers 126– 133, in the Appendix.

To note: Voucher payment 112, P30 HMRC (HM Revenue & Customs), previously approved at Full Council on 15/09/2025, was incorrectly recorded as £2,348.27. The correct amount is £4,055.60. This amendment has been made in accordance with Financial Regulations, point 6, and approved by the authorised cheque signatories.
- 7) **Wyre Council Planning applications, Clerk – for decision**
The Town Council has been consulted on the following applications; the Council are asked to respond.
 - a) **Application Number: 25/00795/FUL**
Proposal: Proposed Erection of internal wall to create two separate industrial units, installation of roller shutter door and personnel door to south facing elevation, installation of personnel door and window to east facing elevation and siting of 6 no. shipping containers to be used for

storage

Location: Manor Park, Green Lane West Garstang

b) Application Number: 25/00836/FUL

Proposal: Single storey rear and side extension, two No. roof lights to loft and replacement detached garage

Location: 9 Pine Grove Garstang

8)

Recommendations from the Finance and Governance Committee meeting held on 8/10/2025, Councillor Atkinson and RFO – for noting and decision

The [draft minutes of the Finance and Governance Committee meeting held on 8/10/2025](#) are published on the Council's website.

Full Council is asked to endorse the recommendations put forward by the Committee.

a) 008(2025-26) Review of income streams as per financial regs, RFO

a) Allotments rent

That the new rents for the allotments take effect from 1 October 2025.

i) ½ Plot (approximately 15m x 6m) – 4 number at £40 per annum -

ii) ¼ Plot (approximately 7m x 3m) – 4 number at £20 per annum

Making a total receipt of £240.

b) Scout Hut rent

Currently the rent is £60 The tenancy agreement states that the rent is to be reviewed every 5-year period. Next review May 2025. The Committee recommended no changes to the current rent of £60 for 1 year and that the rent be reviewed as part of the lease agreement; minute 014(2025-26).

b) 010(2025-26) Completion of the limited assurance review for the year ended 31 March 2025, RFO

The Committee noted that PKF Littlejohn LLP had completed their review of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The External auditor's limited assurance opinion 2024/25, detailed:
On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority: None

Resolved: To report to Full Council on 20/10/2025 that the completion of the limited assurance review for the year ended 31 March 2025 has been received, with no further action required. Thanks were expressed to the Clerk/RFO for her work on the audit leading to this positive outcome.

c) 011(2025-26) Review of Reserves policy, RFO

Resolved: To report to Full Council on 20/10/2025, that the [Reserves Policy](#) be approved without amendment.

9) **Precept/Budget 2026/2027, Councillor Atkinson and RFO – for decision**

The Finance Committee met on 8/10/2025 to discuss the budget for 2026/2027.

Resolved: The Committee recommended the following changes and actions to the tabled budget (V0.1) – detailed in the Appendix, page 10.

The Committee **further resolved** that the Clerk/RFO incorporate the above amendments into the updated budget sheet (V0.2) in consultation with the Committee Chair, prior to its presentation to Full Council on 18/10/2025.

Councillors are asked to consider the draft minutes of the meeting, consider and respond to the points raised by the Finance Committee and make recommendations for the Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday 28/10/2025. The final precept figure will be reviewed at the Full Council meeting on 15/12/2025.

The RFO has circulated the following reports:

- i. [Draft budget V0.2, 2025/26](#)
- ii. [Budget notes](#)
- iii. [Current Earmarked Reserves balances](#)

Financial regulations 4.4. Unspent budgets for completed projects shall not be carried forward to a subsequent year. Unspent funds for partially completed projects may only be carried forward (by placing them in an earmarked reserve) with the formal approval of the Full Council.

10) **Appointment of Internal Auditor, Clerk/RFO – for decision**

As per Financial Regulations, 3.7, the Council are asked to appoint an internal auditor who shall carry out their work to evaluate the effectiveness of the council's risk management, control and governance processes in accordance with proper practices specified in the Practitioners' Guide.

The Clerk has [sought quotations and these have been summarised](#) for Council decision.

11) **Kepple Lane speeding, Clerk - for noting and decision**

Since the Full Council meeting held on 15/9/2025 (minute 080(2025-26), the Clerk is updating the Council of the following.

- i) [Lancashire Road Safety Partnership](#) (LRSP), the Clerk has reported the speeding concerns online. The Clerk has ascertained from the website the following.

Concern Outcome

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. As a result of your concern, speed count data was obtained and analysed and currently, the vast majority of motorists are complying with the speed limit. Policing resource must be directed where threat and risk are most prevalent, so at this time, the Police are unable to perform monitoring at this location. If you would like to raise awareness of speed in your area, you may wish to use the Speed Toolkit. Further information on the Toolkit can be found using the tab at the top of the page. Requests for Spids is a local

authority decision, please contact Lancashire County Council directly, using the links provided on this website.

- ii) LCC, the Clerk has asked County Councillor (CC) Tomlinson to explore traffic calming measures along Kepple CC Tomlinson has confirmed this is being examined.
- iii) The Clerk has made contact with Sgt Eliot concerning the issue of perceived speeding on Kepple Lane and the police's views on the use of SPIDs. A response is being awaited.

Recommendation/Resolution:

Council is asked to consider the updated information above and determine how it wishes to proceed with the potential purchase of a SPID. The Clerk is advising that by November's Full Council meeting, all options will have been explored and Council may be in a better position to respond.

12) Defibrillators in Garstang, Clerk– for decision

The full report is detailed in the Appendix.

Recommendation to Council: That the Town Council staff engage with the relevant partnerships and bring a report back to Full Council for consideration.

13) Wyre Council, Kepple Lane Park playground equipment, Clerk – for decision.

Wyre Council are planning to remove the fenced, Wyre Council owned, children's playground, which was installed in 2008 and is coming to the end of its expected natural life. Unfortunately, the surfacing is in very poor condition with severe shrinking around the edges. We would be looking to remove this in the next financial year. Wyre's intention would be return it to grassed public open space.

This has been communicated by the Public Realm Development & Strategy Manager in a site meeting with Chairs of Finance and Governance and Amenities Committees and staff.

The Clerk is asking how the Council wish to respond. Feedback from the Amenities Committee (which met earlier in the evening) will be reported verbally to Council.

14) Greater Garstang Partnership Board, Councillor Pearson – for discussion and decision

An opportunity for Councillors to ask any questions and discuss issues relating to the GGPB.

Reference documents: The [minutes of the meeting held on 16/09/2025](#) and the [agenda for the session on 11/11/2025](#) have been circulated.

For information

Update from Chair, Councillor Pearson for September and October 2025 is detailed in the Appendix.

For decision (Full reports in the Appendix)

- i) Approval to complete [Help Shape Lancashire's Transport Future](#)

That the above mentioned response / questionnaire is completed, by 30/11/2025, and that this is delegated to the Clerk and a Councillor (either Councillors Pearson, Allen or Keyes) to complete.

- ii) Approval that the Town Council support the LCC feasibility study 'dial a bus.'

15) Garstang Fairtrade 25th Anniversary, Councillor Allan – for decision

The Full Report is detailed in the Appendix.

The recommendation to Council is:

That Full Council recognises and congratulates Garstang Fairtrade Committee on reaching the 25th Anniversary of Garstang being declared the first Fairtrade Town in the World.

16) Lancashire Parish and Town Council Conference and LALC Annual Meeting, Saturday 1st November 2025, Clerk – for decision

Recommendation to Council: That Councillor Keyes attends on behalf of the Council. Due to the timing of the event registration (Friday 17/10/2025), the Clerk has booked Councillor Keyes on the event.

Councillor Keyes is asking (as detailed in the [LALC email](#)) - Does the Council wish to submit a Motion to the LALC AGM for attendees to hear and decide upon?

17) Strategic Plan, Councillor Lee-Bromley on behalf of the working group

The Working Group met on Monday 22/09/2025. It was a productive exploratory discussion. Key points are detailed in the Full Report in the Appendix.

Proposal: That the Town Council approves the implementation of the first stage towards a Strategic Plan (as set out in Section 3).

18) Items for next Council monthly agenda

Councillors are asked to raise matters to be included on the agenda and 'Report of other representatives and projects' for the meeting of the Town Council on **17 November 2025** by notifying the Clerk by **9 November 2025**. The item should specify the business which it is proposed to transact in such a way that the member who receives it can identify the matters which he will be expected to discuss i.e. it needs to specify either what the proposal is and that a decision is required or whether the item is for information only.

The Clerk has produced an [agenda item template](#) to assist Councillors collate their agenda item. The template can be found on Teams – Full Council.

19)

Clerk's Report

a) Grant payments thank you's.

St Thomas Church - Will you please pass on our grateful thanks for the generous grant awarded to St Thomas Church . The money will be used to improve the drainage in the lower Churchyard.

Pilling Jubilee Silver Band - say thank you so much for the grant from Garstang Town Council on behalf of Pilling Band. Please pass on our thanks to the Councillors and I will also thank them in person on Remembrance Sunday .

Garstang & District Heritage Society - that's great news, please thank the council for their very kind grant which will be put to good use as per our application. We will keep the council updated as to our progress.

Garstang Theatre Group - Thank you so much - this is excellent news.

b) Wyre Council (26/9/2025) – Skate Park

I would like to keep you updated that works to the skate park are scheduled to start next week. If the programme (below) runs smoothly and the weather is on our side, we are working towards the end of October for completion.

20)

Councillor Report

None.

21)

Outside body representatives

Wyre Area Committee meeting, 24/09/2025, Councillor Perkins.

The meeting was well attended. Sgt Elliot Jones introduced the new Inspector. He gave a short report on crime figures which are down. Community bicycles will hopefully soon be in use. Speeding is a concern of the public which is being addressed.

A representative from Wyre gave a lengthy talk on Waste Food Recycling which will come into effect in April next year.

It was decided to set up an Energy Working Group to work alongside the one in Fylde.

22)

Town Crier engagements

Date	Event
3/7/2025	U.R.C. Charity Coffee Morning
5/7/2025	St Thomas's Summer Fair.
10/7/2025	Meeting with councillors
17/7/2025	Publicly for Arts and Music Festival
19/7/2025	Art Centre Craft and collector's fair
24/7/2025	Arts and Music Festival publicity August 2025
7/8/2025	U.R.C. Charity Coffee Morning
15/8/2025	9 am; VJ Day Proclamation War Memorial 12 midday; VJ Day proclamation Market Cross

Date	Event
3/7/2025	U.R.C. Charity Coffee Morning
	7 pm; VJ Day event Cherestanc Square September 2025
4/9/2025	U.R.C. Charity Coffee Morning
6/9/2025	Plein air event and Heritage Day
21/9/2025	Otley Town Crier Competition

23)

Mayor's engagements

Date	Event
4/10/2025	Garstang Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club 25th Fairtrade in Garstang anniversary Coffee Morning Garstang Arts Centre Craft Fair Garstang Harvest Street Festival
16/10/2025	Sister Act by Garstang Musical Productions

Deputy Mayor attended the MacMillan Coffee Morning

Appendix

1) Item 6: Finance payments

Voucher No	Date	Net	VAT	Total	Description	Supplier	Bank
133	20.10.2025	£52.00	£0.00	£52.00	Annual data protection fee	Information Commissioner's Office	Unity Trust Bank
132	20.10.2025	£25.30	£5.06	£30.36	Monthly Management Fee	James Reilly (Easy Web Sites Ltd)	Unity Trust Bank
131	20.10.2025	£420.00	£84.00	£504.00	Annual Governance & Accountability Return	PKF Littlejohn LLP	Unity Trust Bank
130	20.10.2025	£180.00	£36.00	£216.00	Preparation of payroll	Towers+Gornall	Unity Trust Bank
129	20.10.2025	£1,408.99	£0.00	£1,408.99	Pension	LCC (Lancashire County Council)	Royal Bank of Scotland
128	20.10.2025	£26.92	£5.38	£32.30	Mobile phone	Vodafone (Vodafone)	Unity Trust Bank
126 & 127	20.10.2025			£3,683.62	Staff salaries	Staff costs "Salary to be paid electronically on 24/10/2025, Clerk: LC2 range SCP 19-32, 'National Agreement on Salaries and Conditions of service of Local Council Clerks in England & Wales 2004', Lengthsman NJC range 7 – 14 Salary range.	Unity Trust Bank

2) **Item 9: Precept/Budget 2026/2027, Councillor Atkinson and RFO – for decision**

Resolved: The Committee recommended the following changes and actions to the tabled budget (V0.1).

	Change	Actioned
1.	Full Council to approve that any underspend from costs codes with a linked EMR to be transferred on 31/3/2026.	
2.	Staff costs; increase percentage increase from 3% to 3.5%.	✓
3.	Budget code 7, Lengthsman salary; be examined to ensure it reflects a realistic value, after recent salary upgrade.	☐
4.	Budget code 9, NI employers figure; be examined to ensure it reflects a realistic value.	☐
5.	Budget code 12 and 13 to be kept separate and reflect title description.	☐
6.	Budget code 16 Insurance; be examined to ensure it reflects a realistic value, after recent claim made.	☐
7.	Budget code 22 Banking fees; be examined to ensure it reflects a realistic value.	☐
8.	Budget code 38 Tree surveys; Change description to include ' & maintenance ' and increase budget to £1,000.	✓
9.	Budget codes 40 and 42 under IT; check detail on descriptions.	☐
10.	Budget code 48 NW stages rally, underspend for 2025/26 (event not taking place), to be transferred into the EMR Community Engagement.	☐
11.	EMR code 36 Moss Lane playing field, Review the budget figure in light of surface maintenance requirements and the Section 106 contribution from Wyre Council. Staff, with the Chair of Amenities, to obtain a drainage quote and report to the next Committee meeting on 28/10/2025, liaising with the Garstang Sports & Social Club.	☐
12.	EMR code 56 Community engagement, reduce budget figure by £800 – see point j) above.	✓

The Committee **further resolved** that the Clerk/RFO incorporate the above amendments into the updated budget sheet (V0.2) in consultation with the Committee Chair, prior to its presentation to Full Council on 18/10/2025.

3) Item 10: Kepple Lane speeding, Clerk

Concern Outcome

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. As a result of your concern, speed count data was obtained and analysed and currently, the vast majority of motorists are complying with the speed limit. Policing resource must be directed where threat and risk are most prevalent, so at this time, the Police are unable to perform monitoring at this location. If you would like to raise awareness of speed in your area, you may wish to use the Speed Toolkit. Further information on the Toolkit can be found using the tab at the top of the page. Requests for Spids is a local authority decision, please contact Lancashire County Council directly, using the links provided on this website.

To get an update on the progress of your concern, please enter your road name, into the search box

14357

Search

Reference	Date	Title	District	Status	Outcome
#14357	28th Aug 2025 07:52 am	Kepple Lane, Garstang, Bonds, Borough of Wyre, Lancashire, PR3 1XL	Wyre	Closed	Click to View

4) Item 11: Defibrulators, Clerk

Full Council minute 073(2025-26), 15/9/2025, detailed:

County Councillor (CC) James Tomlinson had sent the Clerk the following update:

iii. The Beacon Veterinary Centre had raised concerns regarding the ongoing maintenance of the defibrillator located on their premises. They noted that no provision currently exists to cover maintenance costs and that the machine will require replacement in 2027, with no identified funding in place. The Mayor reported that Cat Smith MP had also contacted her on this matter, and the Clerk confirmed receipt of the same correspondence.

It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate the query.

The Clerk has addressed a number of enquiries and communications from various partnership organisations. It is suggested that it may be more efficient to discuss the points raised by these organisations/groups at a staffing meeting and then present a report to Full Council for consideration.

4) Item 13: Greater Garstang Partnership Board, Councillor Pearson

For information

- a) The Greater Garstang Partnership Board has been working for some time with the Chamber of Trade and the Market Superintendent, Wyre Borough Council and Lancashire County Council to improve traffic flow through the 'pinch point' on the High Street.

The aim is to prevent parking in and around the pinch point to keep the highway clear of obstructions and allow the flow of traffic to be unimpeded.

Funding has been sourced through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The carriageway work will commence in the second week of November and closure and works notices will be available on the LLC website or on on-street signage.

Please observe the signs in the area and be patient while the works are in progress. Following the works, parking will be monitored more frequently to see that motorists are using only the marked parking bays, correctly.

Apologies for any inconvenience but the results should benefit everyone.

- b) The Market Hall development - it has been announced that due to work by Councillor Allan on behalf of the Board and the Town Trust Team that over £113,000 has been awarded for Market Hall improvements to include automatic doors and improvements to the food
- c) Councillor Keyes and Councillor Pearson have been meeting with LCC, thanks to the intervention of County Councillor Tomlinson, to pursue the project of some form of community bus service to serve particularly the eastern parishes of the area and combine the service to include residents using the service to attend the Medical Practice.

The [meeting minutes have been circulated](#).

- d) Several meetings including the last main meeting have been held to look at improved signage within the Town including the 5 major boards , blue plaques and in work with the Heritage society to update the town trail, the poppy trail and the historic pub trail and include these on some of the 5 main boards.

It is felt that all these items will enhance the Town's offer not only to visitors but also provide information for our own residents. There is also the possibility to increase visitor numbers by improving bus services

For decision

- i) **Approval to complete [Help Shape Lancashire's Transport Future](#)**
Proposal: That the above mentioned response / questionnaire is completed, by 30 November 2025, and that this is delegated to the Clerk and a Councillor (either Councillors Pearson, Allen or Keyes).

2.0 Background Information:

This strategy sets out an ambitious vision for a transport system that is inclusive, sustainable and future-ready—supporting economic growth, improving access for all, and responding to the climate emergency.

It has been recommended to Council representatives that our workings with the Transport Office of LCC. would be enhanced if we showed an interest in the Transport Future Plan.

3.0 Background Document

Report of Meeting with LCC Transport and Members of GGPB in monthly GGPB report.

4.0 Implications to be completed by the Councillor and Clerk: None

- ii) **Approval that the TC support the LCC feasibility study 'dial a bus'**

1.0 Proposal:

That the Council continues to support the search for sustainable transport solutions as per the [Regeneration Framework](#) which was undertaken by the Board involved areas of Sustainable Transportation - Garstang Town Centre Regeneration Framework and at p.90 of the report is the project regarding a community-led transport service.

2.0 Background Information: Councillors Pearson and Heyes have been working with County Councillor James Tomlinson on the project of a community bus service for the eastern parishes of the Garstang area. During a meeting, the question was asked where this proposal originated and is it still supported, hence the above proposal.

3.0 Background Document

Report of Meeting with L.C.C Transport and Members of GGPB in monthly GGPB report

4.0 Implications to be completed by the Councillor and Clerk: None

5) **Item 14: 25th Anniversary of Garstang Declaring Itself The First Fairtrade Town in the World, Councillor Allan**

Proposal:

That Garstang Town Council recognises and congratulates the Achievements of Garstang Fairtrade Committee in reaching the 25th Anniversary of Garstang being declared the first Fairtrade Town in the World in the year 2000.

The recommendation to Council is:

That Full Council recognises and congratulates Garstang Fairtrade Committee on reaching the 25th Anniversary of Garstang being declared the first Fairtrade Town in the World.

Background Information: From the early days in the year 2000 when Garstang was declared as the First Fairtrade Town in the World there are now Fairtrade Communities in 6 continents.

The MP for Garstang, Cat Smith, has raised an Early Day Motion in the House of Commons in support of Garstang Fairtrade Committee.

“That this House congratulates Garstang on the 25th anniversary of declaring itself the first Fairtrade Town in the World in 2000 championed by local vet Bruce Crowther; notes that in 2001 former MP George Foulkes stated that the beacon that has started here in Garstang can spread like wildfire across the whole of the country and beyond, so that to date there are Fairtrade Communities on six continents; understands that a toast to Fairtrade Garstang will be made on 4 October during Fairtrade Fortnight 2025 in Fairtrade tea, thereby supporting Fairtrade producers and the Brew it Fair Campaign; and wishes the group well and hopes to be repeating this exercise in 2050.”

Background Documents: None

6) **Item 16: Strategic Plan Proposal – Councillor Lee-Bromley**

1. Purpose

This proposal sets out a structured first step towards developing a Strategic Plan for Garstang Town Council. It reflects discussions held by the working

group and the Clerk following recent training on Strategic Planning. The aim is to provide the Council with a shared framework to guide decision-making, strengthen community engagement, and establish a long-term vision for Garstang.

2. Why a Strategic Plan?

A Strategic Plan enables the Council to:

- Define priorities that are consistent with the needs and aspirations of the community.
- Provide clarity and governance for decision-making at Council meetings.
- Allocate resources effectively, ensuring transparency and accountability.
- Strengthen communication with the community and demonstrate responsiveness.
- Position the Council to engage constructively with Wyre Council and other tiers of government on matters beyond our remit.

A shared plan will also help prevent fragmented decision-making and ensure that efforts are coordinated towards common goals.

3. First Stage Proposal

The working group proposes that the Council adopt the following first stage in developing a Strategic Plan:

a) Community Education Campaign

An online and offline campaign to inform residents of:

- Who sits on the Council.
- The obligations and remit of Councillors and volunteers.
- Recent and ongoing Council activities, including events.
- Council involvement in grants/funding and the benefits to the town.

Channels: Council website, social media, Green Newsletter (door-to-door), and other local platforms.

b) Community Survey

A survey to gather resident input on:

- Their vision for the future of Garstang.
- What one change they would make to improve Garstang as a place to live, work, and visit.

Format: Online (SurveyMonkey/Menti) and hard copy (Green Newsletter insert, drop-off at the library).

c) Analysis and Target Setting

- Review survey results through a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats).
- Identify key themes and translate them into SMART targets.
- Categorise targets as:

- **Core:** Maintaining existing provision.
- **Improvements:** Enhancing current services and facilities.
- **Transformation:** Exploring new opportunities.

This stage will ensure Council decisions are aligned with community priorities.

4. Long-Term Vision

The Strategic Plan will evolve over several stages, with further involvement from all Councillors. A completed plan would:

- Establish a 3–5 year roadmap for Garstang.
- Provide measurable objectives against which progress can be reviewed.
- Align Council work with resident aspirations, strengthening trust and accountability.
- Serve as a reference point when engaging with external stakeholders (e.g., Wyre Council, Lancashire County Council, Government, funding bodies).

By embedding community priorities into a shared strategy, the Council will be better positioned to influence higher-level decision-making and secure resources for the town.

5. Benefits of Adopting this Approach

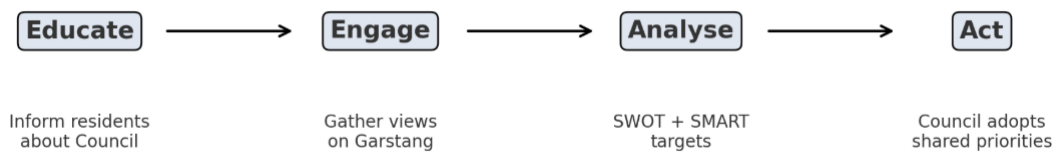
- **For the Council:** Clearer governance, structured decision-making, and stronger alignment across councillors.
- **For Residents:** Greater transparency, more opportunities to contribute, and confidence their views shape decisions.
- **For Stakeholders:** A coherent, evidence-based narrative when engaging with partners and funding bodies.

6. Next Steps

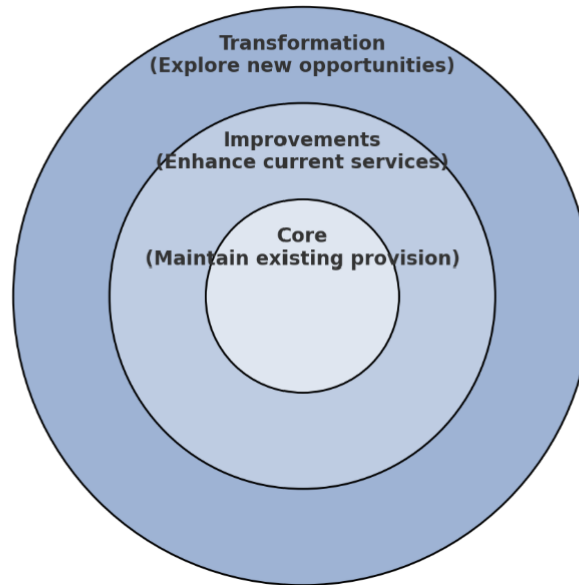
If approved, the Council will delegate to the Clerk in consultation with the working group to:

1. Agree the content and format of the education campaign.
2. Approve the design and distribution of the survey.
3. Schedule a timeline for reviewing responses and conducting the SWOT analysis and bring the results to Full Council.
4. Revisit the findings at a full Council meeting to agree priorities and shape the next stage of the Strategic Plan.

7. Visual Summary



Categories for Council Targets



8. Recommendation

That Garstang Town Council:

- Approves the implementation of the first stage towards a Strategic Plan (as set out in Section 3).
- Commits to revisiting the process at future meetings to ensure all members are fully involved in shaping the long-term vision.