



ACTION PLAN

2025-2029



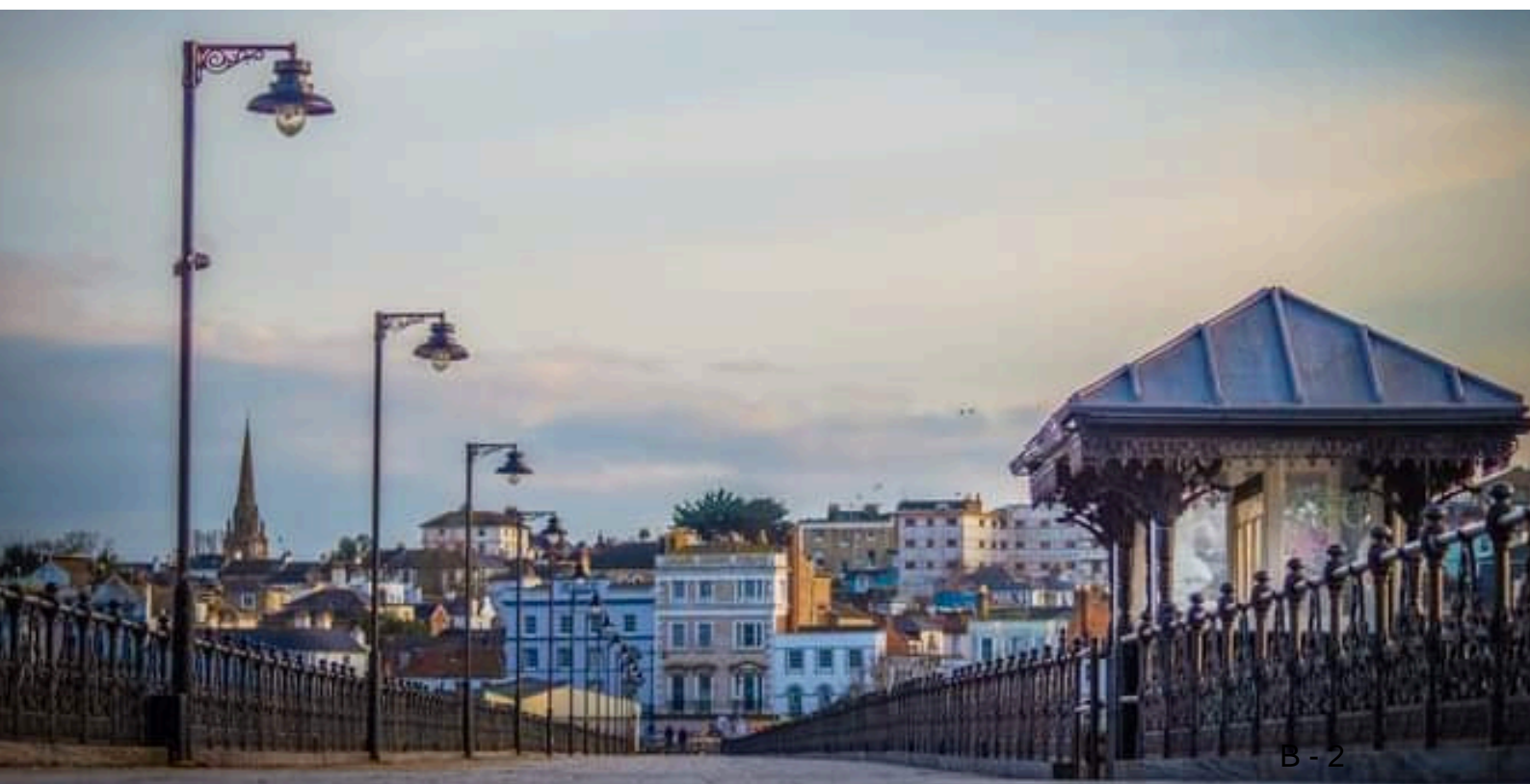
A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

It gives me great pleasure to introduce Ryde Town Council's new Action Plan. Ryde is an incredible place to live, work and visit. It has a stunning natural environment, rich architectural heritage, thriving cultural life and dynamic Town Council. I love living in the town and am proud to be a member of Ryde Town Council and, in particular, to be Mayor this year.

The Plan provides a framework for guiding council activities during the life of the current Council, which was elected in May 2025. It sets out our objectives and how we plan to achieve them and will provide the basis for financial and staffing decisions.

This is our second such Plan. The first one was published in 2020, when the Island was in the grips of the Covid pandemic. Much has changed since then. The Town Council itself has achieved a great deal, but we have also faced some challenges and there have been significant changes in the external environment, including the appearance of a new organisation - the Ryde Neighbourhood Board. The new Plan takes account of these factors. The Plan is a collaborative effort between councillors and staff. I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in its preparation, and in particular the Town Clerk, Lisa Dyer, who has taken the lead.

Diana Conyers



INTRODUCTION

Ryde

Ryde is the largest town on the Isle of Wight, known for its beautiful beaches and vibrant community spirit. With a rich heritage and a growing population, Ryde is a popular destination for residents and visitors alike, offering a unique mix of coastal charm and local amenities.

Ryde Town Council

Ryde Town Council is responsible for representing the interests of the town's residents and supporting the development and maintenance of local services and facilities. It plays a key role in shaping the town's future—managing community spaces, funding local initiatives and working in partnership with other organisations to improve the quality of life for all.

Ryde Town Council has legal powers to act in areas such as allotments, public toilets, planting, parks and open spaces. The Town Council holds no statutory powers regarding education, social care, policing, health or highways, although it is consulted on related policies and will seek to influence these matters within the town.

The present council of 16 councillors was elected in May 2025.



CORPORATE PLAN 2020-2024

In 2020 the Council produced a Corporate Plan. It provided the basis for determining council activities from 2020 to 2024. More information about work undertaken in 2020-2025 can be found here: [2020-2025](#)

During this period the Council achieved a great deal. Among other things, we:

- Took ownership of St Thomas Church and converted it into premises for our award-winning youth service, Network Ryde
- Took ownership of and refurbished Ryde Harbour, now known as Ryde Marina
- Took over the management of Eastern Gardens
- Took the lead in the community response through the pandemic, providing emergency food, prescriptions and help for those isolating
- Developed and Emergency Plan and Emergency Flood Plan for Ryde in conjunction with the IW Council
- Employed a Community Development Officer to take a lead on the Cost of Living Crisis and promoting community resilience going forward
- Provided financial support to enable the Isle of Wight Council's Help Centre in Ryde Library to remain open and provided our own Information and Support Service there
- Funded the employment of a Planning Enforcement Officer to address the problems of empty buildings and breaches of planning regulations
- Purchased the former Natwest building, which we are converting into offices to replace our rented premises in Lind Street.
- Promoted and supported many events in the town, including Armed Forces Day, Ryde Carnival and Pride.



CORPORATE PLAN 2020-2024

However, we also faced some challenges during this period.

In particular:

- Like the rest of the country, we experienced a global pandemic and a cost-of-living crisis, the effects of which are still being felt
- Increased financial pressure on the Isle of Wight Council has forced us to provide increasing financial support in order to maintain the services they provide in the town at an acceptable level
- A build-up of sand on the beach has hampered the utilisation of the Marina and affected infrastructure on the seafront
- Large scale flooding of both the Monkton and Binstead areas
- Some of our assets (notably public toilets and the skate park) need to be refurbished or replaced, while the future of others (notably Vectis Hall) needs to be reviewed.

Meanwhile, new organisations have appeared on the scene – notably the Ryde Neighbourhood Board, which will be responsible for allocating significant amounts of government funding over the next ten years.

We have therefore prepared a new Plan which takes account of these factors. This Plan will guide our activities during the life of the current Council 2025-29.





OBJECTIVES OF THE ACTION PLAN

The objectives of the Plan are derived from the Charter for Ryde - a document approved by the Town Council in 2020 that provides a vision for the town's future. The Charter's vision is that:

Ryde will continue to be a thriving and welcoming community for residents, local businesses and visitors – promoting prosperity and quality of life in a way that respects Ryde's unique character and natural surroundings in line with Biosphere Principles.

In order to achieve this, we will - to the extent that our powers permit - seek to achieve the following five objectives:

1. Protect and promote and the interests of all residents, including people of all ages and families, while providing support to vulnerable groups and individuals with special needs.
2. Maintain and improve the availability and quality of our physical infrastructure and public services
3. Protect, enhance and celebrate our rich natural, architectural and cultural environment
4. Protect and promote our local economy
5. Improve the efficiency, effectiveness and accountability of governance in the town.

As already indicated, Ryde Town Council is only one of many organisations operating in the town. **Other important parties include:**

- Isle of Wight Council
- Ryde Neighbourhood Board
- Local businesses
- Community and voluntary organisations
- Devolved Mayor and Combined Authority
- Local MP
- Local Police

It is important that we have a shared view of the way in which we would like the town to develop. Therefore, one of the key objectives during the Plan period will be to **work with these other organisations to prepare a common Vision for Ryde.**

HOW WE WILL ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES

Our Strategy

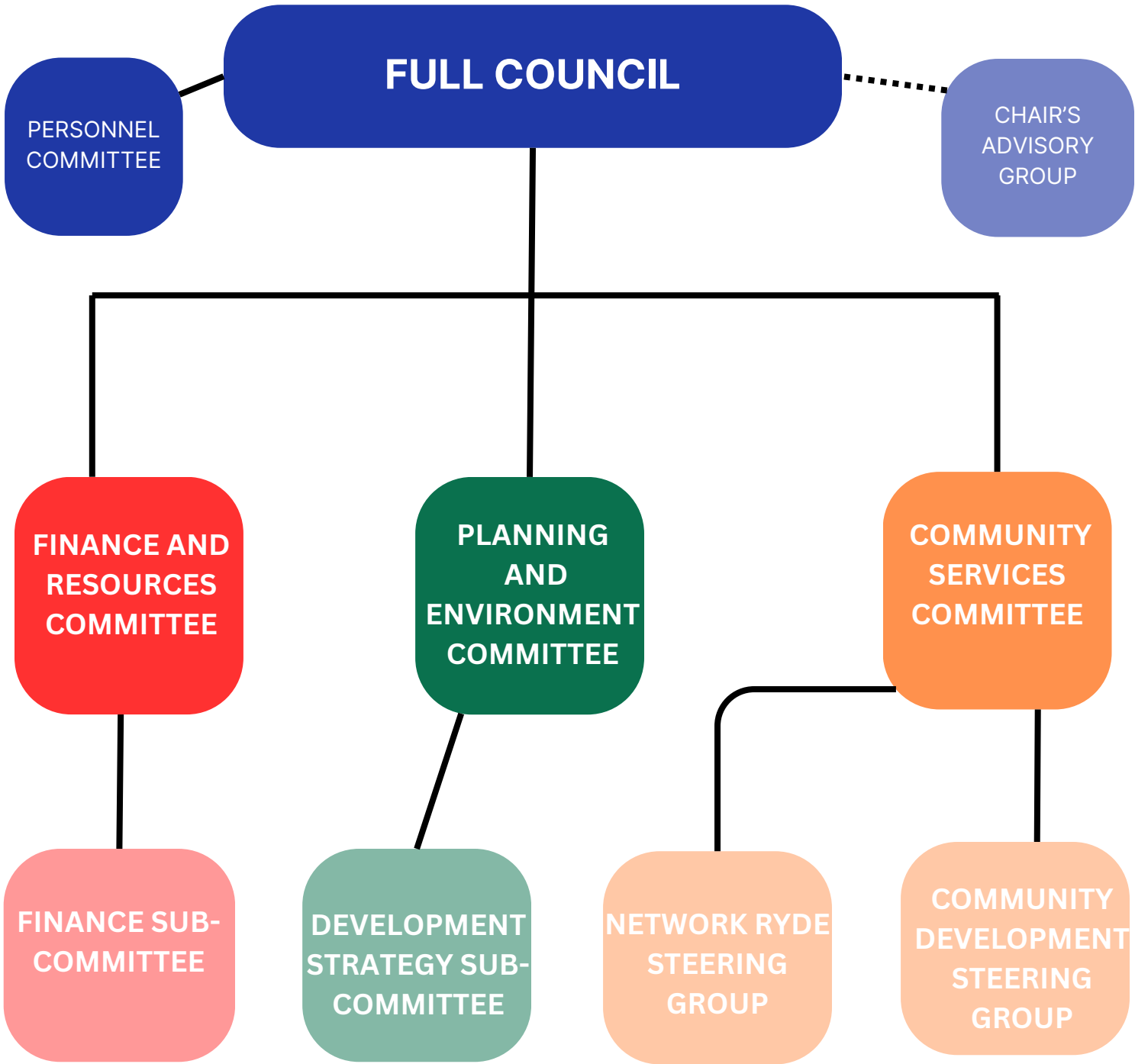
These objectives are broad and our powers and resources are limited.

Therefore:

1. Our priority for this Plan period will be to maintain, and where necessary improve, the essential services that matter most to residents, including our own services and those provided by the IW Council and other organisations.
2. We will seek to achieve this in two different ways:
 - By **taking direct action** ourselves
 - By **supporting, facilitating and encouraging** action by other organisations.
3. In the last Plan period, we embarked on many new projects. This Plan period will be one of **consolidation**. We will complete existing projects and ensure that all our activities are operating as efficiently and effectively as possible. This doesn't mean we won't undertake anything new. However, any new projects will have to be in line with existing priorities and provide long-term value to the community.
4. We will work closely with other organisations in order to make the best use of our collective resources, **thereby ensuring that local taxpayers get the best value for their money**.
5. We will create a clear and transparent committee system with democratic decision making at its heart.



COUNCIL STRUCTURE



SUMMARY OF ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

The tables on the following pages summarise the actions that will be taken during the Plan period. **In order to facilitate implementation and ensure accountability**, there is a separate table for each section of the Council – that is, the Full Council and each of the four committees.

Each table distinguishes between the **two different ways** of achieving our objectives: taking **direct action** ourselves and **supporting, facilitating or encouraging** action by other organisations.

Each committee will also be tasked with developing a strategic plan for delivery of the key projects and the committees’ objectives.

Each table also includes a list of key projects to be achieved in the first year of the Plan.



FULL COUNCIL

INTERVENTION

KEY PROJECTS 2026/27

TAKE DIRECT ACTION OURSELVES

Review council policies and ensure compliance	
Manage acquisition and disposal of Council assets	Determine future of Vectis Hall
Strengthen communication with general public	Redesign website

INTERVENTION

KEY PROJECTS 2026/27

SUPPORT, FACILITATE OR ENCOURAGE ACTION BY OTHERS

Work with other organisations operating in town to improve coordination and optimise use of resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate with IW Council to improve bargaining position • Ensure RTC has voice in Neighbourhood Board decisions • Facilitate preparation of shared Vision for Ryde
Work with other local councils to share experiences, optimise use of resources and strengthen bargaining position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with other larger councils to share experience • Liaise with neighbouring councils to explore cooperation in service delivery
Maintaining good working relationships with community organisations such as the University of Portsmouth, Isle of Wight Council, Island Roads, Southern Water and Neighbourhood Board to ensure successful project delivery in Ryde	

PERSONNEL PANEL

INTERVENTION

KEY PROJECTS 2026/27

TAKE DIRECT ACTION OURSELVES

Determine staffing structure and oversee human resource management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review staffing structure in line with Plan• Manage any resulting staff restructure
Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures	Manage Disciplinary & Grievance procedures in line with policies, HR advice and employment law
Determine all HR related policies	Ensure policies are compliant with best practice, employment law and NJC Terms and Conditions



FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

INTERVENTION

KEY PROJECTS 2026/27

SUPPORT, FACILITATE OR ENCOURAGE ACTION BY OTHERS

Manage the strategic aims of the committee	Prepare a detailed work plan to determine the committee's delivery strategy until 2029
Prepare, monitor and review Council budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase reserves in line with reserves policy • Prepare a medium-term financial plan for approval by Full Council
Audit and Compliance - ensure the Council's financial processes are compliant with current laws and regulations	
Manage Council assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee the refurbishment of 11 St Thomas' Square • Manage the Council's vehicle fleet • Determine future for Lind Street Offices
Manage the Council's grant process	
Operate council-owned business enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review operation of Marina to improve financial viability • Work with other agencies to address build-up of sand • Review operations of beachfront hire business
Support local business by providing free to attend events and Festive decorations	
Promote civic pride	Works with partners on Civic events such as Remembrance Day.

FINANCE AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

SUPPORT, FACILITATE OR
ENCOURAGE ACTION BY OTHERS

INTERVENTION

KEY PROJECTS 2026/27

Provide financial support for local groups	
Promote and support local events that benefit town	
Support re-establishment of local business association	



PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

INTERVENTION

KEY PROJECTS 2026/27

TAKE DIRECT ACTION OURSELVES

Manage the strategic aims of the committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a detailed work plan to determine the committee's delivery strategy until 2029
Prepare and review Position Statement (PS) and other planning policies	Seek recognition of Position Statement as Supplementary Planning Document
Comment on planning applications in line with above policies	
Administer Public Realm budget to improve local infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find solution to George Street waste problem • Refurbish notice boards
Manage council-owned parks and gardens	Improve ground conditions at Eastern Gardens
Manage council-owned allotments	Seek grants to provide accessible allotments
Maintain council-owned public toilets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek funding to refurbish existing toilets • Provide toilets at 11 St Thomas Square
Maintain Skatepark	Seek funding to refurbish skate park
Provide accessible boardwalk to marina beach and lifeguard station area.	
Provide seasonal planting and watering services for key areas in and around town	

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

INTERVENTION

KEY PROJECTS 2026/27

Fund local IW Council Environment Officer	
Fund local IW Council Planning Enforcement Officer	Work with IW Council to take action on neglected buildings
Contribute funds for maintenance of IW Council owned parks and gardens	
Provide funds for extra beach cleaning and bin emptying in summer	
Work with other organisations to improve facilities in town	Work with IWC to ensure High Street refurbishment goes ahead
Increase influence over allocation of s106 monies in Ryde	
Facilitate the operation of public toilet facilities at Ryde Interchange and Department	

SUPPORT, FACILITATE OR ENCOURAGE ACTION BY OTHERS



COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

INTERVENTION

KEY PROJECTS 2026/27

Manage the strategic aims of the committee	Prepare a detailed work plan to determine the committee's delivery strategy until 2029
Provide a quality youth service through Network Ryde	Review operations and seek funding to ensure financial viability
Operate Information and Support Service (RISS) in Library as long as needed	Work with other organisations to extend RISS model Islandwide
Host monthly Forum meetings to coordinate local organisations	
Take direct action to provide reduce poverty, cost-of-living support and increase community resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Uniform Swap Shop • Cookery lessons
Operate Timebank to encourage and support volunteering	Reduce Timebank dependence on Council staff
Prepare and distribute annual Ryde Guide	



COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

SUPPORT, FACILITATE OR
ENCOURAGE ACTION BY OTHERS

INTERVENTION

KEY PROJECTS 2026/27

Provide financial support for Help Centre in Ryde Library	
Work with other organisations to provide cost-of-living support and increase community resilience	
Work with other organisations to address problem of homelessness	



IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Plan provides the basis for assessing staffing needs, guiding and monitoring staff activities, preparing the annual budget and making other financial decisions.

The Plan is not set in stone. Situations inevitably change and the Plan must take account of such changes. It will therefore be monitored regularly.



RYDE
TOWN COUNCIL