

# Background Information

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Thornbury is a small market town with a population of approximately 13,000, located to the north of Bristol, in South Gloucestershire and includes the town itself and surrounding rural area. Thornbury is a popular place to live for families and older people, with good schools and easy access to the countryside of the Severn Vale and local employment via the A38 and M4/M5 with good connections to Bristol, Gloucester and South Wales. The town is going through a period of significant change and growth, with new housing developments taking place to the north-eastern edge of the town.

Thornbury Town Council has sixteen councillors currently made up of fourteen Liberal Democrat councillors and two independent councillors, representing five wards across the parish of Thornbury. Elections to the Town Council are normally contested and the next ordinary elections are due in 2023. The councillors are supported by a team of 11 permanent staff led by the Town Clerk/ Responsible Finance Officer, who work from the office, maintain our public open spaces, properties in the Town and run our Cemetery.

The Town Council is based at the Town Hall, which is also home to the Neighbourhood Police, Volunteer Centre, and Over 60's tearoom, as well as providing office facilities, council chamber and meeting rooms. The Council are also responsible for the management and maintenance of a wide range of public open spaces including the Mundy Playing Fields, which includes a large play area, splash pad, football pitches, pavilion and tennis courts, the Town Cemetery, St Mary's closed churchyard, The Chantry Playing Field (football & rugby pitches), Skatepark, the war memorial and town clock as well as a range of smaller play areas and open spaces. We also own a separate High St building which is let commercially as an office with a privately rented residential flat above. The Council also manages and monitors a Service Level Agreement with a Youth organisation to provide Youth services in the Thornbury area. The Town Council currently contracts with a support agency to offer advice in HR and Health and Safety matters.

The Town Council has an agreed council plan and its key priorities over the next two years are to carry out a number of feasibility studies, work in partnership to develop a new Skate Park, follow through with the adoption of a neighbourhood plan for the town, upgrade the town's play areas and continue to modernise the council's policies, procedures and working practices. To deliver these priorities and the full range of council services to the community, the Council's planned expenditure in 2022/23 is approximately £1.2 million funded from the precept, reserves and CIL funding (Community Infrastructure Levy).

Partnership working is central to the Town Council's work, and the Council are actively involved in the Town Centre Partnership, as well as working closely with neighbouring councils, police, South Gloucestershire Council and other local organisations and public sector bodies on matters of local importance. The town council actively supports a range of local groups and organisations through its grants process, and we are also involved in delivering and supporting a range of community events.