

Acton 2020 Recommended Implementation Program

Working Draft

Strategy	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timing/Priority
GOAL 7: Maintain and Improve Financial Well-being of the Town			
Objective 7.1 Promote fiscal responsibility.			
Actively manage Town finances to avoid an undue tax burden on residential property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to Promote economic development to enhance the commercial tax base in order to reduce the residential portion of the tax levy. (See also Objective 7.2) 	EDC	Highest
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to Develop policies that encourage seniors to stay in Acton in order to increase the taxpayer/student ratio.¹ (See also Objectives 1.5, 4.1, 5.1, and 7.4) 	Planning, ACHC, BoS	Highest
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support ongoing efforts to balance the financial requirements of the school system and other town resources. (See also Objective 6.1) 	ALG	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue the process of Develop a long-range planing for major capital expenditures such as remodeling town or school facilities or constructing new buildings. 	Town Manager, FinComm, Schools, Municipal Facilities, BoS	Highest
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a long rangeContinue planing to cover long term obligations such as retiree health insurance, life insurance, and pensions. 	Town Manager, FinComm, Schools, BoS	Highest
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to scrutinize all budget items to ensure town services are a "good deal" for taxes paid. 	Town Manager, FinComm, Schools, BoS	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue theEvaluate a strategy for of supplementing current revenues with sources other than the property tax, e.g., grants and fees. 	Town Manager, FinComm, BoS	Ongoing
Work to do more with less.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue with eEnhancing the level of services that the Town can provide by continually seeking operational efficiencies. 	Town Manager, BoS	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to seek federal, state, and private funding sources to supplement Town funds. 	Town Manager, BoS	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue evaluating and implementingUpdate the energy audit of town buildings and implement measures to increase energy efficiency and cost savings. 	See Objective 2.3, <u>GABIncentives for Seniors</u>	

Acton 2020 Recommended Implementation Program

Working Draft

Strategy	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timing/Priority
Evaluate and improve the efficiency of public safety and emergency services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider regionalizing public safety services including dispatch to reduce service costs. 	See Objective 6.5	
Consider fiscal impacts of new development when amending the Zoning Bylaw and reviewing special permit applications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>On an ongoing basis, ensure that all development-zoning is coordinated with and takes into account the impact on town services and facilities so that their costs don't balloon. (See also Objectives 1.1 and 1.2)</u> 	Planning, PIBd, BoS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Support legislation that would enable Massachusetts towns to charge impact fees on new development.</u> 	Planning, BoS	
Objective 7.2 Promote economic development that supports other goals.			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hire an Economic Development Officer (EDO) to proactively recruit and retain desirable businesses and help to coordinate the business community.² New Staff Position 	Town Manager, EDC, FinComm	Highest
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively promote employment-oriented development (e.g., high tech/R&D offices) in targeted areas.³ 	EDO, EDC, Planning	Highest
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively recruit a small-scale movie theater to locate in Acton. (See also Objective 4.4) 	EDO	Highest
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively recruit restaurants to increase their number and variety.⁴ (See also Objective 4.3) 	EDO	Highest
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redevelop village commercial areas and Kelley's corner into mixed use centers. 	See Objective 1.1	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Continue to evaluate costs and benefits of connecting West Acton to the sewer system to support business growth.</u> 	See Objectives 1.2 and 2.1	
Objective 7.3 Improve existing commercial areas.			
Be more business friendly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the sign bylaw to increase flexibility of standards while continuing to protect aesthetics. 	Planning, PIBd, BoS	2 nd Highest
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Continue to Streamline the business permitting process. (See also Objective 3.3)</u> 	BoS, EDC	2 nd Highest

Format t

Format t

Acton 2020 Recommended Implementation Program

Working Draft

Strategy	Action Steps	Responsibility	Timing/Priority
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to make improvements to business access and transportation. 	See Objective 3.2	
Improve the aesthetics of shopping areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review new commercial development with design guidelines that improve aesthetics. 	See objectives 1.1 and 1.2	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with property owners to make improvements to existing commercial areas. 	Planning, EDO	Highest
Objective 7.4 Support the ability of all residents to stay in Acton for a lifetime			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the creation of a wide range of housing types. 	See Objectives 1.1, 1.2, and 5.2	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider incentives to encourage seniors to stay in Acton such as tax relief. (See also Objective 5.1) 	BoS, FinComm	2 nd Highest

Blue type indicates a reference to a strategy/action described under another objective.

¹ Acton currently has a relatively high ratio of students to its total population, which results in a relatively high proportion of taxes needed to support the school.

² The EDO would be responsible for, among other things: welcoming new businesses, including business owners in events and notices, and expanding Acton Day

³ Targeted areas for commercial development include Great Road, Nagog Park, Powdermill, and large commercial parcels on Rt. 2.

⁴ Desired restaurants include mid-level, family, casual, and additional ethnic restaurants.