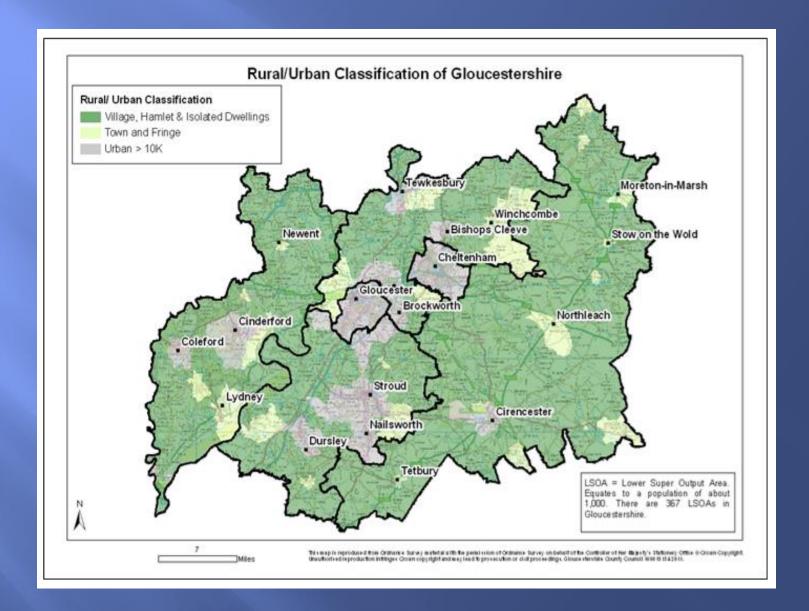
# THE DISTRICT EXPERIENCE

Katie Power Economic Development Officer Andy Sanders Economic and Community Development Manager Tewkesbury Borough Council

## Background to Tewkesbury Borough

- Growing population
- Joint Core Strategy strategic employment allocations
- Borough Plan
- Mainly rural character
- Strategic location excellent motorway links
- Position borough to meet growth



### **Business in Tewkesbury Borough**

- Diverse business base
- 3,500 businesses
- Established centre for high tech advanced manufacturing
- Multinational to microbusiness (76% micro business)
- Strong economic performance above national level
- Skilled workforce
- Low unemployment 1.1%



# Role of the council – economic development

Tewkesbury Borough BUSINESS GUIDE & DIRECTORY



Big focus on growth



- Economic development seen as priority
- Influences at district, county and national level
- Where do councils fit in delivery of ED?
- Partnership working crucial i.e. LEP, County Council, GRCC, business networks



# SEP Growth zone at M5 Joint Committee Sector groups EUSIF Growth Hub

# THEGROWTH HUB

# Key Areas of Work

- Growth agenda
- Maintaining strong relationships with local business networks - vital
- Business grants
- Support for businesses affected by flooding
- Inward investment
- Training and skills development
- LEADER project
- Town/Retail centre regeneration



**Tewkesbury Borough** 





# Issues / Opportunities

- Flexible employment sites
- Strategic sites and rural economy
- SEP/SIF i.e. M5 growth zone, Growth Hub
- Increase start ups and innovation
- Local enterprise hubs
- LEADER
- Changing employment trends
- Retail centre vitality



## Tewkesbury Town Team

- Key area of work at local level supporting town centre vitality
- Established Marketing & Investment group
- Evolved into Town Team
- Responsible for delivery Mary Portas High Street 10k grant
- Developed links with LEP Retail Sector Group
- Gloucestershire LEP National Retail Pathfinder
- Developed Retail Toolkit Tewkesbury is a delivery case study.

# Town Centre Background

- Traditional market town
- "Y" shaped town centre
- Small size retail units + conservation area
- Mainly Indies & SME's + few big brands
- Split summer/winter economy
- Key assets heritage, river, Abbey
- Over 130 units



# Town centre profile

Many challenges....

- Fragile businesses.
- Hinterland engagement.
- Competition from nearby conurbations.
- No focal point / public space.
- Night time economy.
- High no. of charity & coffee shop.
- Vacant units.
- Flooding negative media image.
- J9 Retail Outlet proposal.
- Budget and resources.

## Understanding the Issues

- Delivery of retail toolkit help us understand our key challenges.
- Town surveys and footfall.
- Collect data/evidence.
- NEMs Household survey.
- Present to key influencers /organisation.

# **Key Findings**

- » Survey helped Town Team to identify priority work areas
- » Develop and expand the 'offer 'of the town.
- » Increase visitor footfall out of season.
- » Make Tewkesbury a tourist destination.
- » A year round town full calendar of events.
- Increase range and type markets
- » Develop a clear identity and brand for the town.
- » Introduce activities to increase dwell time above 1-2 hours.
- » Review parking charge strategy.
- » Develop the experience of the town through heritage and public art.
- » Promote increased use of riverside and develop linked activities.
- » Encourage better range of shops and attract more independent retailers.
- » Develop investment plan for town.
- » Develop the Evening economy of the town centre.
- » Influence Master Plan for town centre.



#### Progress

- www.VisitTewkesbury.info + Facebook
- Vintage Fair + Vintage & Antiques Trail
- Established monthly Farmers' Markets
- High street food and craft markets
- Cotswold Tourism Accommodation Guide
- Cotswolds Attractions Guide
- Retailer training
- Vacant unit listings
- Town Team tourism campaigns
- Wider Town Master Plan projects



#### DISCOVER TEWKESBURY'S VINTAGE & ANTIQUES TRAIL BARTON STREET & CHURCH STREET

Start at Tewkesbury Abbey or Tewkesbury Museum and take a stroll along Barton Street and Church Street. Along the way you'll find an exciting mix of Vintage Stores, Antique Shops, Boutiques, Galleries and Traditional Tea Shops. Scattered amongst the medieval buildings you'll discover Secret Alleyways, Museums and The Heritage Centre.



www.VisitTewkesbury.info



#### & Craft Market



Sat 12 October Sat 9 November Sat 14 December

9am - 1.30pm Abbey Lawns Car Park Gander Lane GL20 5PG



#### Visit Tewkesbury







Tewkesbury Abbey Vintage & Antiques Trail Museums & Heritage Centre Historic Buildings & Alleyways Traditional High Street Riverside Walks & Boat Trips Walking Trails & Cycle Routes Tea Rooms, Pubs, Restaurants

www.VisitTewkesbury.info

## **Planned Activity**

- Tewkesbury Statues Project
- Developing town centre action plan
- Influence key decision makers
- Secure support & funding
- Working with LEP to prepare a paper to influence Government to provide more funding for market town/smaller retail centres
- Influence parking strategy
- Supporting town regeneration