

REPORT TITLE: ANNUAL COUNCIL PLAN REFRESH 2021/22

11 FEBRUARY 2021

REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER: Cllr Lucille Thompson - Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Communications

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WARD(S): ALL

PURPOSE

The Council Plan 2020 – 25 was adopted at the Full Council meeting on 15 January 2020 and outlines the strategic priorities and outcomes that the council aims to achieve by March 2025.

This report sets out a refreshed Council Plan which refines the actions and objectives for the coming years, taking into consideration the impact of and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

There are no proposed changes to the five strategic priorities.

The refreshed Council Plan also includes a 'what we have achieved' section under each strategic priority which captures key achievements and also comprises a new Cabinet Member commentary under each priority.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That cabinet approves the refreshed Council Plan Priorities and recommends adoption by Full Council.

IMPLICATIONS:1 COUNCIL PLAN OUTCOME

- 1.1 This report provides details of the activities the council will undertake to deliver the five priority outcomes included in the Council Plan.

2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 None directly included in this report. The activities in the Council Plan, along with the Medium Term Financial Strategy, will guide how the council's financial resources will be allocated and utilised.

3 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no direct legal or procurement implications which arise directly from the attached plan, though individual projects and actions will be subject to review as required by Legal Services. The delivery and implementation of the Council Plan will need to take account of legally binding duties and responsibilities on the council.

4 WORKFORCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None directly arising from the report. To deliver the aims and objectives in the Council Plan, resources will need to be assigned as required across the council.

5 PROPERTY AND ASSET IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None in the plan, though asset management is an element of the council's activities.

6 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 6.1 Cabinet members have been consulted and have contributed to the refresh of the Council Plan
- 6.2 Executive Leadership Board and senior managers have been consulted on the content of the draft refreshed Council Plan.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 Tackling the climate emergency and reducing the carbon emissions across the district remains a key theme within all the priorities of the Council Plan

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSEMENT

- 8.1 In formulating its proposals the council must have regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. EqIA's will be undertaken on the individual projects that will support delivery of the priorities included in the Council Plan if required.

9 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 None

10 RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk	Mitigation	Opportunities
<i>Property - none</i>		
<i>Community Support</i>	Provide engagement opportunities especially through key projects.	Further opportunities to engage with our residents and communities.
<i>Timescales</i>	Quarterly monitoring of the measures included in the Plan by Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.	
<i>Project capacity</i>	Project team resourcing across the council supports the delivery of the programmes and projects included in the plan.	Ensuring that adequate resources are allocated to all new projects as part of the business justification case and before they commence.
<i>Financial / VfM</i>	Financial planning and regular monitoring of expenditure and income ensures that the council maintains a balanced budget. All new projects require approval of a financial appraisal before they can commence.	New revenue streams derived from the outcomes included in the Council Plan contribute positively to the council's financial position.
<i>Legal</i>	Each significant action or project will be subject to its own legal consideration in appropriate reports.	
<i>Innovation</i>	By exploring new ways of working, this increases the council's exposure to risk and alters its risk profile. This is mitigated by consideration of a robust business justification case before approval is given.	This plan proposes some innovative proposals that will provide the council with the opportunity to introduce new ideas and ways of working. The risk of retaining the same operating models is significant in that funding reductions are such that the council could be

		unable to fund some of its core services.
<i>Reputation</i>	The risk of not delivering the plan is mitigated through the monitoring of the outcome measures contained within the Strategy, and ensuring corrective action is taken. Not delivering on some of these items, especially some of the major projects will have a large financial risk to the council through impacting on future revenue streams.	This plan gives the opportunity for the council to enhance its reputation through establishing a more targeted ambition for the district that is based on clear measures. Success against these key measures will enhance the council's reputation to move key programmes of work forward.
<i>Other - none</i>		

11 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

- 11.1 The Council Plan 2020-25 was adopted at Full Council on 15 January 2020 and comprises five priority outcomes the council wants to achieve over five year period to 31 March 2025. These are:
- Tackling the climate emergency and creating a greener district
 - Homes for all
 - Vibrant local economy
 - Living well
 - Your Services. Your Voice
- 11.2 The document sets out a number of actions the council will undertake over the life of the plan to deliver the five outcomes. Progress against these actions is included in the quarterly Finance and Performance report and monitored by the Performance Panel on behalf of Scrutiny Committee.
- 11.3 In the year following the Council Plan adoption a significant amount of progress has been made, notwithstanding the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic. The response to the pandemic has been broad-ranging in terms of the measures taken by services across the organisation, and the many innovations introduced will see long term effects for the way the council works.
- 11.4 This refresh of the Council Plan has provided the opportunity to refine some of actions that the council will undertake to deliver the priorities but also to

include some of the projects that the council will deliver to support the recovery and restoration following the COVID-19 pandemic.

12 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 12.1 The council could choose not to refresh the Council Plan, however it is deemed prudent to refine the actions that contribute to the delivery of the priorities annually to ensure the plan outcomes remain achievable and fit for purpose.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-

Previous Committee Reports:-

CAB3207 Council Plan 2020-25, Council 15 January 2020

Other Background Documents:-

None

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 Council Plan 2020-25 (March 2021 edition)