

Report to Overview and Scrutiny

Date of meeting 27th September 2022



Portfolio: Leader of Council (Cllr C Whitbread)

Subject: Corporate Plan 2023 - 2027

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Recommendations:

- (1) To consider any matters of concern in relation to the Corporate Plan for 2023 - 2027 to the Cabinet arising from the Overview and Scrutiny function.
- (2) That the Corporate Plan 2023-2027 be recommended to Cabinet for approval with final adoption to be by Council.

Report:

The Corporate Plan 2018 to 2023 is the authority's current key strategic planning document. The lifetime of the current Corporate Plan comes to an end 31 March 2023, a new Corporate Plan has been developed to take the authority forward over the period from 2023 to 2027.

The Council's main areas of focus for the four-year lifetime of the new Plan have been captured in a new set of corporate aims. In addition, a new set of key results have been developed to support the aims and key objectives. These Corporate aims will be reviewed annually through Objectives and Key Result measures to deliver and work towards the achievement of each objective that year.

Corporate Plan 2023 to 2027

1. The Corporate Plan is the Council's highest level strategic document. It sets the strategic direction for the authority for the lifetime of the plan, and as such informs all other plans produced by the Council. The Corporate Plan does not cover everything that the authority does, focusing instead on a number of key areas that it needs to focus on over the lifetime of the Plan. These include issues arising from the financial context within which the Council operates, things that matter most to our residents, and local challenges arising from the social, economic and environmental background of the district. Therefore, as a strategic document, the Corporate Plan does not contain specific information on the wide range of services that the authority provides, or how it delivers statutory duties or enforces legislation.
2. The Corporate Plan is an important element in the Council's performance management framework and corporate business planning processes. It provides a framework for the development of detailed annual directorate business plans and other detailed service plans which in turn provide details of service provision and how the work by services directly contributes to the achievement of the Council's aims and objectives. The Corporate Plan also provides the policy foundation for the authority's Medium-Term Financial Strategy and helps in the prioritization of resources to provide quality services and value for money.
3. As the lifetime of the current Corporate Plan comes to an end on 31 March 2023 a new Corporate Plan has been developed to take the authority forward over the period from 2023 to 2027. The draft new Corporate Plan is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

4. The new Plan includes many of the sections found in the organisation's previous Council Plans including an overview of the district, a vision for the district, together with the corporate aims, objectives and key results pertinent to the life of the Plan.

5. The corporate aims, objectives and key results are a central element of the Corporate Plan and as such the new Corporate Plan has been developed around them in a focused and interrelated way. The new Plan is a forward looking and organised document, shorter than the existing Corporate Plan, and whilst directed internally, it is written in plain English and is easily understandable to members of the public.

6. Like the existing Corporate Plan, and to minimise expenditure associated with the production of the new Plan, it will be primarily available via the Council's website. Should it be required in other formats assistance will be provided to facilitate access to the Plan.

Reason for decision: The identification and adoption of the Council's high level strategic aims and the key objectives to support the aims, for the four-year period of the new Corporate Plan, provide an opportunity for the Council to focus specific attention on how areas for improvement will be addressed, opportunities exploited, and better outcomes delivered for local people.

Options considered and rejected: Not applicable

Resource implications: The design and production costs of the new Corporate Plan have been met from within the existing budget of the Performance Management Office for 2022/23. Publication of the new Corporate Plan will be primarily electronically via the Council's website. Resource requirements for actions to achieve specific key objectives will be identified by the responsible service director and reflected in the budget for the year.

Legal and Governance Implications: There are no legal or governance implications arising from the recommendations of this report. Relevant implications arising from actions to achieve specific key objectives will be identified by the responsible service director.

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications: There are no implications arising from the recommendations of this report in respect of the Council's commitment to the Climate Local Agreement, the corporate Safer, Cleaner, Greener initiative, or any crime and disorder issues within the district. Relevant implications arising from actions to achieve specific key objectives will be identified by the responsible service director.

Consultation Undertaken: The new Corporate Plan is a strategic planning document for the Council. It is not considered that formal consultation with customers or external organisations is required. Senior Leadership Team, Cabinet Members and Internal EFDC staff have been involved in the content of the draft document through collaboration at purposeful workshops.

The Plan will be considered by the Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny committee during its development and these forums are open to the public to comment.

Background Papers: None

Risk Management: The respective service director will have identified any risk management issues arising from proposals for the Council's Objectives and Key Results for 2023/24 as set out in this report.

Equality: Relevant equality implications arising from actions to achieve specific objects or benefits will be identified by the responsible service director and/or SLT.