

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 13 December 2022

Subject: Corporate Plan 2023 - 2027

Portfolio Holder: Leader of Council – Councillor C Whitbread

Recommending:

That the new Corporate Plan for the period 2023 – 2027 be agreed.

1 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 31st March 2023, a new Corporate Plan has been developed to take the authority forward over the period from 2023 to 2027.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

5 The draft new Corporate Plan is attached at Appendix to this report.

6 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.

7 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.

Conclusion

6. We recommend as set out at the commencement of this report.