

CABINET

DATE OF MEETING: 6 OCTOBER 2022

TITLE OF REPORT: DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN CONSULTATION

Report of: Joint Chief Executive

Cabinet Portfolio: Corporate

Key Decision: No

Confidentiality: Non Exempt

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To gain approval for the commencement of public consultation on the draft Corporate Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That Cabinet approves the draft Corporate Plan for consultation purposes as set out in Appendix A and;
3. That Cabinet approves the timetable and approach for public consultation set out in Appendix B

BACKGROUND

4. The current Corporate Plan (2017-2022) is based upon a series of priorities, set out below;
 - a. A Thriving Local Economy
 - b. A Clean, Green and Safe Environment
 - c. Healthy Communities and People
 - d. An Efficient and Effective Council
5. As part of the plan, a programme of projects was developed, designed to meet one or more of the priorities above. These priorities have been embedded into the work of the Council, through the Service Planning process, which has been considered each year by Overview and Scrutiny and approved by Cabinet. Performance against these priorities have been scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee through Service Panels.
6. Key areas of progress during this period included;
 - Successful delivery of the Local Plan
 - Declaration of a Climate Emergency, and the setting of challenging carbon reduction targets for the District
 - Successful delivery of our Prevent Homelessness Strategy
 - Successful launch of a Commercialisation strategy
 - Sound financial management of the Council through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic

THE DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2023-2026

7. Since the current Corporate Plan was agreed, there have been a number of changes; politically, socially and economically which together, with increasing demand for Council services, have proved challenging and will requires reflection on, and a change in priorities.
8. Cabinet, through a Cabinet Working Group, has provided a clear direction in the form of a set of four strategic objectives, which have been the guiding principles in the new draft Corporate Plan (Appendix A). In summary, the strategic objectives relate to the following;
 - a. Planet – a new zero carbon and climate resilient Council by 2035, and a climate resilient district by 2040
 - b. People – fair treatment for all, help for those in need, and a sustainable economy that makes Hart a great place to live, work and enjoy.
 - c. Place – delivering warmer, better homes in sustainable locations that people can afford to live in.
9. The consultation exercise will last 6 weeks and then a period of analysis of the results will be required, to prepare a final draft Plan for Cabinet to consider on the 2nd February 2023. The consultation will focus on the following;
 - a. Are the priorities correct within the draft Corporate Plan? If not, what should be included and what should be removed?
 - b. Are the four year goals appropriate? What further actions should we take to deliver on the priorities in the Corporate Plan and contributing to the Hart Vision 2040.
10. External consultation will consist of an on-line survey (back up postal survey for those that request it). Internal consultation will focus on developing the delivery programme. Further details regarding the consultation exercise are available in the Consultation Plan set out in Appendix B.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

11. The Council could decide to not reconsider their corporate priorities, however as circumstances change, it is entirely appropriate for the Councils to consider where to channel its efforts on behalf of their residents. Failure to do so would be considered poor governance and increase risks to the Council.
12. The Council could decide not to consult our communities, stakeholders and partners on the priorities that the Council wishes to focus on. This is not an inclusive approach and therefore an approach the Council rejects.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or The Hart Vision 2040

Service Plan

- Is the proposal identified in the Service Plan? No

- Is the proposal being funded from current budgets? The approval of the Corporate Plan will be considered alongside the budget for 2023/2024 to ensure any costs are captured at the point of approval
- Have staffing resources already been identified and set aside for this proposal? No, as above, the Corporate Plan will be considered alongside the budget for 2023/2024 to ensure any costs are captured at the point of approval

Legal and Constitutional Issues

13. In accordance with the Councils Constitution, Cabinet has the authority to approve the recommendations of this report.

Financial and Resource Implications

14. The draft Corporate Plan has significant influence on Council priorities and spend. This includes continuing to focus on the financial sustainability of the Council, driving increasing efficiency and value for money, which enables the significant spend commitments on tackling climate change and other areas.
15. In line with the Councils standard approach to budgeting for Corporate Priorities and Service Plan delivery, the costs associated with the draft Corporate Plan will be considered through the budget setting process for 2023/2024.

Risk Management

16. The ability to delivery against the ambitions of the draft Corporate Plan will be considered as part of the Councils agreed risk management approach and reported on a quarterly basis. The draft Corporate Plan and the commitments within it, has not been identified as a significant risk.

EQUALITIES

17. The draft Corporate Plan makes significant commitments to ensure fair treatment for all, and tackle social and health inequalities.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

18. The draft Corporate Plan makes significant commitments to tackling climate change and improving the environment, detailing a wide range of activities that will be taking place throughout the life of the plan.

ACTION

19. Subject to approval of the recommendations of this report, consultation on the draft Corporate Plan will begin, and a report will be brought back to Cabinet in February for consideration.

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Appendix 1 – draft Corporate Plan

Appendix 2 – Consultation Plan