

ITEM10 Developing the next Corporate Plan 2019-2023

Report of the Policy Manager (Portfolio: Leader)

Recommended:

That OSCOM endorses the proposed approach for developing the next Corporate Plan.

SUMMARY:

- The current Corporate Plan “Investing in Test Valley” expires in April 2019 and preparatory work now needs to begin towards the development of a new plan. This report outlines the proposed approach and considerations for developing the new plan.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The current Corporate Plan “Investing in Test Valley” expires in April 2019 and preparatory work now needs to begin towards the development of a new plan. This report outlines the proposed approach and considerations for developing the new plan.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Corporate Plan outlines the Council’s vision and strategic priorities for the four-year period 2015-19. It sets direction and provides a focus for our activities and services. As a result it informs decision making and the allocation of resources.
- 2.2 The Corporate Plan is underpinned by a Corporate Action Plan which runs for the lifetime of the plan and is updated annually. It shows in detail how the Council is making progress against the priority aims through the delivery of key projects.
- 2.3 The current Corporate Plan “Investing in Test Valley” expires in April 2019 and preparatory work now needs to begin towards the development of a new plan.
- 2.4 In January 2018, members of OSCOM held a Roundtable session with the Leader of the Council to consider ways in which councillors can be involved in the process of developing the new plan. The Leader of the Council has indicated he is keen to build upon the approach of involving as many councillors as possible through the public engagement work and in particular, wishes to work with OSCOM throughout the process of developing the new plan.

Design principles for developing the next Corporate Plan

- 2.5 The Corporate Plan is developed in a way that focuses on having a good understanding of the key challenges or issues for communities across the borough, taking a full assessment of what's needed and why and crucially learning what works in order to inform our future approach.
- 2.6 To achieve this, the plan is developed in line with the following principles:
- **An inclusive approach** that enables Councillors and staff to play an active role throughout the process of developing the plan.
 - **An evidence-led methodology** that takes into account the views of local people, statistical information, and external influences, such as government policy.
 - **Evolution not revolution** - this is not a stop/start process, but one which builds upon the last plan and our emerging place-based initiatives, in that much of what we will be working on requires focus beyond a four year cycle.
- 2.7 In developing the approach for producing the new plan, the Leader of the Council and members of OSCOM held a roundtable in January to discuss member engagement and the approach to collecting evidence and data. As a result the following will inform the development of the new plan:
- **Member engagement:** The Leader of the Council has indicated he is keen to build upon the approach of involving as many councillors as possible through the public engagement work. In particular, the Leader wishes to work with OSCOM throughout the process of developing the new plan. To accommodate this it is recommended that a series of roundtable sessions be built into the timetable as part of the development of the plan.
 - **Evidence base:** The research from which the Council can now draw from to inform the new plan is much richer than in previous years. This stems from the place-based work that has been undertaken resulting in the emergence of Andover Vision and Romsey Future. As a result, these strategies are a valid up-to-date source of data and information that should be taken into account when shaping the new plan. In addition, there is an opportunity to ensure closer alignment with the work being undertaken to review the Local Plan as both processes will be moving forward at a similar time. In practice, this means utilising the shared evidence base that is emerging from the current studies and information that is being collected for the benefit of both strategies.

3 Outline Timetable for developing the next Corporate Plan

3.1 Member engagement and project development (January - April 2018): Initial scoping of the project has taken place to inform this report. This has included a first roundtable with OSCOM members who have provided feedback for how members would like to be involved in the development of the plan. In scoping the approach, Councillors have asked for the following to be considered:

- (a) Explore a range of methods for how we can further develop the public engagement approach to ensure the widest range of people are able to take part as possible.
- (b) Review the style and approach of the survey to ensure it is accessible, focused and issue based as opposed to service based.
- (c) Draw lessons from the place-based work the council has undertaken through Romsey Future and Andover Vision

3.2 Public engagement (May - August 2018): Throughout the summer we will seek to engage with at least 1,100 residents on the issues they want the Council to focus on for the next four years. This will achieve a broadly representative sample of the borough's population. It will also be structured to reflect the geography of the borough and be targeted to ensure representation from hard to reach groups and those from across the Protected Characteristics as set out in the Equality Act.

It is anticipated that Councillors will play a full and active role in this phase, utilising their community links and profile to be able undertake surveys within their local area or within target group workshops. In keeping with the previous approach, officers and members will work together to deliver the face-to-face surveys during this period. Additionally, the Leader is keen to explore how social media can be used to increase survey engagement. The survey will be designed in a way in which residents are not only asked to identify issues, but more importantly are asked to qualify their choices as this provides the important insight required when collating the evidence base.

3.3 Reviewing the evidence base and developing emerging priorities (September - December 2018): Following completion of the public engagement work this phase will involve bringing all of the evidence together to shape the emerging strategic priorities. It is recommended that this phase includes the following activities:

- Officers will review the findings from the public consultation and the evidence base to inform emerging themes.
- OSCOM roundtable session(s) which builds on the outcomes of the work undertaken by officers and provides members with an opportunity to reflect on the issues and options emerging from the research phase.
- Drafting phase will commence.

- Formal adoption phase including OSCOM, Cabinet and Full Council in 2019.

3.4 Following this report to OSCOM, Cabinet will consider the proposed timetable and suggested approach in April 2018 with any additional comments from OSCOM.

4 Corporate Objectives and Priorities

4.1 The Corporate Plan outlines the Council's vision and strategic priorities for the four-year period and beyond. It sets direction and provides a focus for the Council's activities and services. As a result it informs decision making and the allocation of resources.

5 Consultations/Communications

5.1 In developing this report the Leader of the Council has met with members of OSCOM to discuss and develop the approach through a recent roundtable. The outcomes of this have informed the proposed approach.

6 Options

6.1 OSCOM has the options to endorse the proposed approach, endorse with amendments or not endorse.

7 Resource Implications

7.1 There are no direct resource implications arising from this report.

8 Legal Implications

8.1 None

9 Equality Issues

9.1 A full Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken as part of the project management framework used to co-ordinate the development of the new plan.

10 Other Issues

10.1 Wards/Communities Affected - All

11 Conclusion

11.1 This report considers the approach to be taken towards developing the Council's next Corporate Plan. It has been developed in consultation with Councillors through a recent OSCOM roundtable with the Leader of the Council. The approach being taken seeks to be evidence-led, inclusive and ensure the delivery of a clear and focused plan that will guide the allocation of resources from 2019.

<u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u>			
<u>Confidentiality</u> It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.			
No of Annexes:	None		
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