

Corporate Plan 2019-2023

Report of the Leader

Recommended:

1. That the draft proposed Corporate Plan for 2019-2023 be approved.
2. That the Policy Manager, in consultation with the Leader, be authorised to make changes of a minor nature to improve the presentation of the document and correct typographical errors prior to publication.

Recommendation to Council

SUMMARY:

- The Council's current Corporate Plan "Investing in Test Valley" was approved in 2015 and adopted for a four year period, to April 2019. A new draft proposed Corporate Plan has been developed for the next four years, 2019-2023. (Annex)
- The draft proposed Corporate Plan outlines the Council's priorities for Test Valley for the four year cycle of the newly elected Council. The Corporate Plan provides a focus for the services provided by the Council, informing decisions and the allocation of resources.
- The plan has been developed using a robust evidence base, taking into account the views of local residents, external influences and statistical bases.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Corporate Plan is a key corporate document, at the heart of the Council's strategic policy framework. The Corporate Plan sets out key priorities and can be used in conjunction with the Local Plan and the Medium Term Financial Strategy to view the overarching strategic plans for the Council.
- 1.2 The current Corporate Plan "Investing in Test Valley" ends in April 2019. A new draft proposed Corporate Plan has been developed for the Council cycle of 2019-2023. The Draft Proposed Corporate Plan is attached in the Annex.
- 1.3 The Corporate Plan is underpinned by the Corporate Action Plan (CAP), which runs for the lifetime of the Corporate Plan. The CAP details the annual progress of the Corporate Plan through the delivery of key projects. A new CAP is being developed alongside the Draft Proposed Corporate Plan; this will be considered by Cabinet in July 2019.

2 Background

- 2.1 The draft proposed Corporate Plan has been developed using a robust evidence base, taking into account the views of local residents, external influences and statistical bases.

- 2.2 During the summer of 2018 councillors and officers attended more than 70 events throughout the Borough, carrying out a consultation which has taken into account the views of 2000+ local residents. This also included a targeted approach to engage with residents who would normally be considered harder to reach. More details on the Corporate Plan consultation can be found under Section 5.
- 2.3 The draft proposed Corporate Plan has been developed in an inclusive way, with Councillors playing an active and collaborative role in its development. This has included sessions with Portfolio Holders and multiple OSCOM roundtables, enabling members to inform the priorities which come together in the draft proposed Plan.

3 New Corporate Priorities

- 3.1 The draft proposed Corporate Plan, **Growing our Potential**, builds on the priorities from the current Plan, “Investing in Test Valley”. Over the last four years resources and skills have been invested to achieve the best results for communities in Test Valley. This has developed real potential within our communities and the new plan seeks to grow this further, enabling people to play their part in improving quality of life across the Borough.
- 3.2 The proposed strategic priorities for the new Corporate Plan have been developed with the ethos of Growing Our Potential. The strategic priorities are therefore entitled:

Growing the potential of...

- **Town Centres** to adapt and be attractive, vibrant and prosperous places
 - **Communities** to be empowered, connected and able to build upon their strengths
 - **People** to be able to live well and fulfil their aspirations
 - The **Local Environment** for current and future generations
- 3.3 Throughout the draft proposed Corporate Plan there is a focus on the continuation and strengthening of place-based working within communities. The Council will continue to play an enabling role in supporting communities and local people as part of its community leadership function. The new Plan is also focused on a commitment to promote and secure inclusive growth, ensuring social and economic benefits are delivered for communities across the Borough. Our commitment to supporting a thriving economy sits at the very heart of this approach and is therefore reflected across all of the strategic priorities within the plan.

4 Corporate Objectives and Priorities

- 4.1 The Corporate Plan is a key corporate document at the heart of the Council’s strategic framework. The Corporate Plan sets out the medium term priorities and can be used in conjunction with the Local Plan and the Medium Term Financial Strategy to view the overarching strategic plans for the Council.

- 4.2 The draft proposed plan has been built on the strong foundations of the last plan. Elements of the previous document will live on in the new corporate priorities, recognising that much of what we are working on now will still require focus beyond a four year cycle. It is therefore anticipated that some of the current Corporate Action Plan (CAP) projects will be transferred from the existing CAP to the next one, following the adoption of the new plan.
- 4.3 In developing the plan we have looked closely at internal and external influences on the Borough which may provide challenges or opportunities in the lifetime of the next Corporate Plan. These challenges include the changing nature of town centres and the role of the Council to encourage inclusive growth in our towns. In addition, there is the importance of sustaining vibrant rural communities and ensuring the right infrastructure and support is provided in these areas. Any decision made in the lifetime of the draft proposed Corporate Plan will also need to take account of preserving and enhancing natural assets for future generations. There are also uncertainties relating to the financial environment in which Local Government continues to operate within, so there will be an ongoing focus on sustaining financial resilience and delivering value for money.

5 Consultations/Communications

- 5.1 The consultation carried out for the development of the draft proposed Corporate Plan was robust, with the views of more than 2000 local people being gathered.
- 5.2 Councillors and Officers attended more than 70 events throughout the summer of 2018 in communities across the Borough. As well as these events, the surveys were taken to individual community groups and meetings in order to get opinions from as wider range of people as possible. These events included attending a Nepalese community event, disability groups and mother and toddler groups. Attending events in this way meant that councillors were able to gain a greater level of detail in the responses given by the public, and therefore a greater understanding of resident's priorities.
- 5.3 As part of this consultation the Council sought to make the most of digital opportunities. Social media and an online survey tool were utilised to increase the reach to residents. On the homepage of the Test Valley Borough Council website there was a link to the Corporate Plan survey, enabling a greater reach than in previous years.
- 5.4 The feedback from residents highlighted the importance of community spirit and activities being available in people's local area. There was a strong focus on the changing nature of town centres and what people would like to see in them for the future. There was also an increased emphasis and a high value placed on the green spaces and recreational facilities people use, with residents keen to look after their surroundings and recycle more.

6 Options

- 6.1 For Cabinet to endorse the draft proposed Corporate Plan, endorse the draft proposed Corporate Plan with amendments, or not to endorse the draft proposed Corporate Plan.

- 6.2 For Council to approve the draft proposed Corporate Plan, approve the draft proposed Corporate Plan with amendments or not to approve the draft proposed Corporate Plan.

7 Risk Management

- 7.1 An evaluation of the risks indicates that the existing controls in place mean that no significant risks have been identified at this time.

8 Resource Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct resource implications arising from this report.
- 8.2 The draft proposed Corporate Plan, will guide the extent to which future resources are allocated to projects that form the Corporate Action Plan. Projects will be subject to the Council's corporate project management framework which will assess and consider resourcing implications.

9 Legal Implications

- 9.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

10 Equality Issues

- 10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out in relation to the Corporate Plan and there are no positive or negative impacts that have been identified at this time. This conclusion has been reached as the Plan has been developed as part of an inclusive process which aims to service the entire community within Test Valley. This is in keeping with the Council's objectives to be an organisation of excellence and improve the quality of life for all residents.
- 10.2 The draft proposed Plan has also incorporated the Council's Equalities Objectives. These updated objectives include strengthening the Council's evidence-led methodology with a suite of engagement tools and processes to enable those with protected characteristics to have their views understood and shared. The Council's approach to understanding the experience of service users will therefore be strengthened and embedded as practice, ensuring those with protected characteristics perspective is heard.
- 10.3 The protected groups will continue to be considered throughout the lifetime of the Corporate Plan with the Corporate Action Plan providing an opportunity for all projects to go through an EQIA process as part of the council's project management framework.

11 Other Issues

- 11.1 Sustainability and Addressing a Changing Climate – The Corporate Plan recognises the long term challenges and opportunities around preserving natural assets for future generations and balancing this with other aspirations and commitments such as economic growth. A specific strategic priority in relation to growing the potential of the environment for current and future generations has been identified to reflect this.

11.2 The areas of work identified in the Corporate Plan and Corporate Action Plans will enable further consideration of sustainability and climate change matters, including supporting the objectives of the Council's Sustainability Framework (2017).

11.3 Wards/Communities Affected - All

12 Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

12.1 The draft proposed Corporate Plan outlines the Council's vision and priorities for the Borough over the next four years of the newly elected council. It sets the direction and provides a focus for all the Council's projects and services. As a result it directly informs decision making and allocation of resources across the Council.

<u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u>			
None			
<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:	1	File Ref:	N/A
(Portfolio: Leader) Councillor Phil North			
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Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	13 March 2019