

# Corporate Action Plan: Year two update

Report of the Leader

## **Recommended:**

**That the Corporate Action Plan 2023-27 (year two) be approved.**

### SUMMARY:

- A Corporate Plan for the period 2023-27 (A Place for Everyone – Supporting our communities to thrive) was approved by Council in April 2023.
- The Corporate Action Plan runs for the lifetime of the Corporate Plan and shows in detail the major projects to be taken forward in pursuit of the Council's priorities.
- The Corporate Action Plan is approved, reviewed, and updated by Cabinet on an annual basis and plays an important role in enabling the allocation of resources to major projects from across the organisation.
- This report sets out proposals for the Corporate Action Plan 2023-27 – Year two.

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Corporate Action Plan (CAP) is the delivery document of the Council's Corporate Plan. The CAP shows in detail how the Council intends to make progress against its strategic priorities through the key projects to be delivered over the four-year period.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 The Council approved its current Corporate Plan 2023-27, 'A Place for Everyone – Supporting our communities to thrive' in April 2023. The Corporate Plan is one of the key documents that forms the Council's policy framework, setting out key priorities and can be used in conjunction with the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and the Local Plan as part of the overarching strategic plans for the Council.
- 2.2 The Corporate Plan, 'A Place for Everyone – Supporting our communities to thrive' is about making the wider opportunities for our communities a reality. Progressing long-term strategic projects such as the regeneration of town centres, the Council's approach to climate change and being able to influence partners so that together we can deliver the best outcomes and quality of life across the borough.

2.3 The Corporate Plan is underpinned by the Corporate Action Plan (CAP) which runs for the lifetime of the Corporate Plan. The CAP details the key projects that will be delivered in pursuit of the strategic priorities of the Council. Given that the CAP is a four-year programme and reflects the major projects that the Council is delivering, it is expected that most projects that feature on the CAP will do so for multiple years given their scale and scope.

#### 2.4 **Corporate Action Plan 2023-27 (Year two):**

2.5 A proposed update to the corporate action plan has been prepared for year two and approval is sought from Cabinet for its adoption. Eleven projects form the CAP and are set out in the attached Annex.

2.6 The projects that form the CAP are driven by the strategic priorities for the Council over the next four years and include:

- Delivery of Andover Masterplan Regeneration schemes – focussing on implementation of agreed projects such as the delivery of the new theatre and Western Avenue/Riverside Park.
- Delivery of the South of Romsey Town Centre Masterplan and connected schemes – focussing on redevelopment of the bus station site as well as progressing plans for the reprovision of community facilities.
- Enabling access to housing – focussing on implementing the new Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy as well as preparing a new Housing Strategy.
- Supporting rural communities to thrive, working with partners through community planning exercises – focussing on delivering a new rural strategy and enabling rural communities to access funding support to deliver their ambitions at a local level.
- Delivering a new economic development strategy – with a focus on investigating support for rural businesses, supporting key sectors to grow and promoting upskilling to meet future economic needs.

2.7 Monitoring of the CAP will be undertaken through the Council's performance management framework. The Leader of the Council will present an annual update to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and an Annual Report will be published on the Council's website to demonstrate progress against the project areas.

2.8 The next update of the Corporate Action Plan is due in April 2025.

### **3 Corporate Objectives and Priorities**

3.1 The Corporate Action Plan is the delivery document of the Council's Corporate Plan setting out in detail how the Council intends to make progress against its strategic priorities through the key projects to be taken forward over the four-year period.

- 3.2 The strategic priorities of the new Corporate Plan are as follows:
- **Sustainability**, delivering lasting benefits for our communities.
  - **Connection**, building upon the identity, strengths, and ambitions of our communities.
  - **Inclusion**, working together to create opportunities for our communities.
  - **Prosperity**, economic growth that impacts positively on our communities.
  - **Environment**, a greener borough for our communities.
- 3.3 Against each of the projects the CAP sets out clearly which priorities they relate to and will form the basis for how the Council demonstrates the impact it is making in pursuit of these priorities over the next four years.
- 3.4 As part of the ongoing approach to work in a place-based way that recognises the varying needs of our borough's communities, the plan renews the long-standing commitment to empower local communities through the way the Council works. The Corporate Plan sets out how the Council will deliver the priorities through a community focus so that they can be tailored to make sure they are relevant and appropriate to local circumstances. The framework used to describe this in the plan is viewed through the lenses of a number of communities:
- Village and rural communities
  - Andover and Romsey
  - Chilworth, North Baddesley, Nursling, Rownhams and Valley Park
- 3.5 The projects that form the CAP seek to reflect this approach and underpin a community focus where appropriate to do so. For example, the CAP projects relating to regeneration for Romsey and Andover are both based on the local needs and aspirations of those specific communities following an extensive community-led exercise with residents and stakeholders. Over the course of the next four years the Council will continue to build on its approach to working in a more community focused way, the outcomes of which, are likely to influence the future development of the CAP and the projects that form it.

#### **4 Consultations/Communications**

- 4.1 The Corporate Action Plan has been developed using a detailed and thorough evidence base. This includes a review of statistical data, extensive public engagement, and an analysis of the external environment to ensure that key strategic influences have been considered.
- 4.2 During the summer and autumn of 2022, the Council undertook an extensive and innovative programme of public engagement engaging with more than 1600 people across two phases of engagement. This included a wide-ranging survey available online, engaging and surveying people attending local events, and the delivery of cutting-edge deliberative engagement workshops in partnership with the Involve Foundation. This has enabled a detailed insight of what matters to local people to be gained and has informed the development of the Council's priorities.

- 4.3 During the first year of the new Corporate Plan, councillors and officers have been working with communities across the Borough to undertake workshops that are supporting communities to identify their local priorities based on evidence of need. As these local priorities emerge, there will be further opportunities for the council to reflect upon these and consider opportunities for where communities can access resources, where council resources can be allocated and where strategic focus can be given via the Corporate Action Plan.
- 4.4 Many of the projects within the CAP are outward facing in their nature and as a result the Council engages with the community on a regular basis through these projects where it is appropriate to do so.

## **5 Options**

- 5.1 For Cabinet to consider the Corporate Action Plan as presented in this report and agree to either:
- a. Approve the Corporate Action Plan (as set out in the annex).
  - b. Approve some other iteration of the Corporate Action Plan.
  - c. Not approve a Corporate Action Plan.

## **6 Option Appraisal**

- 6.1 The Corporate Action Plan is a key document setting out how the Council will deliver against the priorities set out in the Corporate Plan. Proceeding in the absence of a Corporate Action Plan as contemplated in Option C is therefore not recommended. Cabinet could approve a Corporate Action Plan in some other form than the attached in the annex.

## **7 Equality Issues**

- 7.1 A separate Equality Impact Assessment for the proposed Corporate Action Plan is not required because the issues covered have previously been considered by Councillors at the Council Meeting 5 April 2023 under Item 542 –Corporate Plan for 2023-27.
- 7.2 As part of the Council's project management framework, all projects that form the CAP will be required to consider equalities issues on an individual basis and undertake the appropriate screening including Equality Impact Assessments as appropriate and necessary.
- 7.3 New equality objectives have been developed alongside the CAP, following a commitment in the 2023-27 Corporate Plan. The new objectives focus on understanding who uses our services, promoting opportunities for communities, empowering our workforce and championing different perspectives. These can be seen evidenced throughout the CAP, specifically in areas such as supporting local communities to thrive, enabling access to housing and developing a new economic development strategy.

## 8 Resource Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct resource implications arising from approving the CAP. However, each of the projects that form the CAP will be subject to specific resource requirements as they move towards delivery and will be approved in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules as well as being considered more generally as part of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

## 9 Conclusion

- 9.1 The Corporate Action Plan shows in detail how the Council intends to make progress by focusing on the projects it will take forward against each of the priorities of the Corporate Plan. As a result, it informs decision making and allocation of resources across the Council.

<u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u> <a href="#">Council Report 5 April 2023</a>			
<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
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Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	3 April 2024