

COUNCIL– 10 JULY 2018
CORPORATE PLAN 2018-2021

Report by the Chief Executive

Introduction

1. The Corporate Plan sets out the County Council's overarching strategy for the period 2018-2021. It states our updated vision for 'thriving communities' in Oxfordshire and describes the council's main priorities and the specific actions that will be taken in the period to March 2019.
2. A draft of the Corporate Plan was considered by County Council on 13th February 2018, and a motion agreed that the plan should be reconsidered by prior to a further meeting of Council. Following this a cross-party Working Group met to debate, steer, shape and finalise the Corporate Plan 2018-2021.
3. At its meeting of the 19th of June, Cabinet agreed to recommend the Plan to Council for agreement. At its meeting on the 5th of July, Performance Scrutiny considered the outcomes, indicators and measures against which the Plan will be monitored and performance measured.
4. This paper provides the background to the attached draft Corporate Plan 2018- 2021 in ANNEX A. Council are asked to agree the document in ANNEX A with any final design changes to be delegated to the Chief Executive and Leader before publication. Changes may include, further photographs and final layout alterations, along with the addition of a foreword from the Leader of the Council.

Background

5. In October 2017 the Council published a short, public-facing document (the 'prospectus') which summarises the council's vision and priorities; this document has been widely distributed and has been positively received.
6. The Corporate Plan 2018- 2021 expands on the messages in the prospectus, drawing together our vision, values, challenges we face and the key areas of focus for the coming year.
7. The intended audience for the Plan is Councillors, staff, partners, inspectors and residents with a specific interest. It is also intended to be a predominantly web-based document, linking to more detailed about specific elements in the Plan.

Response to Council comments on the plan

8. Councillors expressed views that the corporate plan should be shorter and more focused, with greater emphasis on future plans and how these will be achieved. Councillors also wished to see the full detail of how progress will be measured through priority outcomes, indicators and measures.
9. The priority outcomes and indicators for measuring performance against this Plan were discussed and agreed by the Corporate Plan Working Group. The high-level outcomes and indicators were discussed and agreed by Performance Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 24th May 2018. The full set of measures were also presented to Cabinet for information on the 19th of June 2018 and considered by Performance Scrutiny in detail on the 5th of July.

Finalising the Corporate Plan

10. The Corporate Plan is a key document for the council, building on and aligning closely to the messages in the prospectus document. Together they set the future strategic direction and how this will be achieved.
11. Council recommended in February that the Plan was brought back to Council in March. However, to ensure Councillors could be fully involved in shaping and finalising Plan, Cabinet agreed on the 27th of February that more time was taken to complete the work.
12. To finalise the Plan, a Councillor Working Group was established with cross-party representation. This Group had eight members in total (four Conservative, two Labour, two Liberal Democrat) and it met four times, with cross-party representatives at each meeting. Draft content, material and questions were circulated to all members of the Group in advance of each meeting to provide opportunities to feed in views at each stage. The Group also had the opportunity to comment on the design of the Plan.
13. The Group made agreements at each meeting which were recorded and used to shape further iterations of the Plan which is now attached at ANNEX A. The document has been provisionally designed in line with the existing 'Thriving Communities' branding. Such branding has been used in the publication of the prospectus, Council Tax leaflet and promotional posters. Further photographs and final layout alterations may be required, along with a foreword from the Leader of the Council before publication.

Financial and Staff Implications

14. There are no direct financial or staffing impacts that have been identified as part of this Plan, the actions to deliver the Plan have been identified to be in line with the staffing and budget available. This is specifically being identified through the service and resource planning process.

Equalities Implications

15. The Plan seeks to ensure all residents are given equal opportunity and looks to address inequalities where they exist. Where any of the actions involve changes to service or service delivery, they are considered as part of the specific proposals (e.g. through Service and Community Impact Assessments).

RECOMMENDATIONS

16. **Council is RECOMMENDED to:**
 - (a) **Agree the Corporate Plan 2018- 2021;**
 - (b) **Delegate authority for any necessary amendments to the final design and addition of a foreword to the Chief Executive and Leader on behalf of Council.**

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Chief Executive

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