

Committee: Council

Date: Tuesday, 22
February 2022

Title: Draft Corporate Plan 2022-2026

Portfolio Cllr N Reeve, Portfolio Holder for the

Holder: Economy, Investment and Corporate Strategy

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Summary

1. Council adopted a new corporate plan in February 2020, following a change of Administration in 2019. This has been reviewed annually, and this latest revised iteration is presented alongside the budget, medium term financial strategy and other strategic reports.
2. The draft Corporate Plan 2022-2026 has been considered by the Scrutiny Committee on Thursday, 3 February 2022 and Cabinet on Thursday, 10 February 2022.

Recommendations

3. That the Corporate Plan for 2022-2026 is adopted.

Financial Implications

4. There are none directly arising from the corporate plan but the draft budget reflects allocations for the members' priorities, which will be detailed against the corporate plan delivery plan.

Background Papers

5. None.

Impact

- 6.

Communication/Consultation	There has been no specific consultation on the review but the changes proposed are minor.
Community Safety	Community safety continues to be featured in the Corporate Plan

Equalities	Equality continues to be featured in the Corporate Plan
Health and Safety	No issues arise from the Corporate plan
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None arising from the Corporate Plan
Sustainability	The corporate plan makes clear reference to sustainability
Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	A strong vision that creates a sense of purpose is key to engaging staff effectively in their work situation

Situation

7. Council adopted a new Corporate Plan 2020-2024 at its meeting in February 2020; this had been proposed by the new administration elected in May 2019. The Corporate Plan sets out the vision for the next four years and the priority areas of work to deliver that vision.
8. The Corporate Plan is reviewed annually but the expectation is that having adopted a new one in 2020, the annual review will be light touch and result in no/little change.
9. The period since the Corporate Plan has seen three major events impact on the work of the council. This review, therefore, included specific consideration of the potential for change in light of these events:
 - a. Covid19 pandemic: It is considered that the plan holds up well, even in light of the significant impact the pandemic has had on our residents, businesses and communities. Therefore no change is recommended.
 - b. The Council is currently considering adoption of a substantially-revised Medium Term Financial Strategy following national changes in the approach required of local authorities, and which will substantially reduce the net spending power available to the authority over the latter four of the next five years.
10. This Corporate Plan is not being altered substantially as a result of this financial situation deliberately and by design. This is to ensure that the scale of ambition for improving outcomes for local residents remains central to the work now commencing to change the way the council works over those five

years to live within its means (which will be set out in a separate document, to be called Uttlesford 2027).

11. Members will be aware that a Corporate Plan Delivery Plan is prepared by the Executive, which defines the actions to be taken. The financial implications arising from the draft delivery plan are reflected in the budget papers being considered at this same meeting.
12. The delivery plan for 2022-23 has been drafted and will be brought to Scrutiny Committee at its meeting in March, ahead of being taken to Cabinet later in the month. This will reflect any changes made to the Corporate Plan and/or the budget and will build on the progress made in 2020-21 and 2021-22, which will also be reported at the March meeting of Cabinet.

Risk Analysis

13.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
The Council fails to deliver on its priorities	1	3	The Delivery Plan will set out an achievable programme of work for 2021/22 31 – If staff are not sufficiently focused on the priorities, some projects bringing benefit to the community may not be delivered Greater clarity and explanatory narrative enables staff to understand the priorities more clearly; the Delivery Plan alongside the budget will ensure that adequate resources are allocated; activities will feature in service and individual performance plans

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.