



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

Thursday, 10 March 2022

Report of the Managing Director

Council Plan Refresh 2022-23

(Cabinet Member for Strategic Leadership, Culture, Tourism and Climate Change)

1. Divisions Affected

1.1 County-wide.

2. Key Decision

This is a key decision because it is likely to result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or savings which are significant having regard to the budget for the service or function concerned and it is likely to be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral areas in the County.

3. Purpose

3.1 To seek agreement of the authority's Council Plan Refresh 2022-23 for recommendation to Full Council for approval.

4. Information and Analysis

4.1 The Council Plan sets out the Council's ambition and values together with the outcomes that the Council is seeking to achieve, working with partners and local communities. In March 2021, Council approved the new Council Plan 2021-25, to drive forward activity over the forthcoming four years.

- 4.2 A light touch refresh of the Council Plan 2022-23 has been undertaken to ensure that the Plan remains up to date and fit for purpose. The draft Plan reflects the future aspirations the Council has for Derbyshire including: maximising the benefits of becoming a county deal pathfinder area; driving forward Vision Derbyshire to develop a collaborative working model across all local authorities; exploring opportunities to maximise heritage and tourism based growth; and delivering the levelling up agenda across the county to help boost economic performance and investment in the area and improve opportunities and outcomes for all people and places.

The outbreak of coronavirus and the ensuing pandemic has had a significant impact on the work of the Council. The draft Plan reflects the vital community leadership role the Council will continue to play, in ensuring work with partners and local communities addresses both the challenges and opportunities presented by Covid-19.

The priorities outlined in the existing Council Plan will remain as follows:

- Resilient, healthy, and safe communities
- High performing, value for money and resident focused services
- Effective early help for individuals and communities
- A prosperous and green Derbyshire

The headline initiatives have been refreshed as set out below and it is recommended that the Council adopt two additional headline initiatives, one in respect of the Council's County Deal pathfinder status included as the first bullet point, and one relating to the Council's ambitious improvements to Children's Services included as the sixth bullet point:

- Delivering devolution and the levelling up agenda across Derbyshire as one of nine early County Deal pathfinder areas, helping to boost economic performance and improve opportunities and outcomes for people and places
- Leading the county's economic and community recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic delivering a £15m fund to support local businesses and residents in need
- Investing £40m in well managed roads and pathways and developing sustainable methods of travel
- Taking action on climate change, providing community grants for sustainable and green projects and delivering the Green Entrepreneurs scheme to help local people and businesses to reduce carbon emissions

- Working with partners to benefit the health and wellbeing of people in Derbyshire by better integrating health and social care and developing the Better Lives transformation programme
- Driving forward the ambitious improvements in Children's Services to positively strengthen outcomes for children and young people, resulting in children's services being a judged 'Good' or better by Ofsted
- Mainstreaming the Thriving Communities approach, working alongside communities to improve resilience and outcomes for local people and communities, reducing demand for high cost services
- Promoting our employees' wellbeing and developing their potential

The refreshed Council Plan 2022-23 is attached at Appendix 2 and is now recommended for approval by Cabinet. An updated Delivery Plan, outlining clear timescales for undertaking activity, success measures and lead responsibility, is also attached at Appendix 3 for noting.

The Council will continue to assess progress through regular monitoring of the identified actions and key performance measures set out in the Plan.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 As part of the process for developing the new four-year Council Plan for 2021-2025, consultation took place between 18 December and 29 January 2021 for a period of six weeks in 2021. A total of 163 responses to the consultation were received from residents of Derbyshire, people who work in the county and local groups/ organisations and businesses.

Many positive comments were received with people expressing their support as well as making suggestions for improvement. As a result of the consultation, a number of changes were made to help strengthen the Council Plan 2021-25. A summary, outlining the key themes arising from the consultation and the changes to the Council Plan that were made as a result can be found in the background papers below.

6. Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 Alternative Option 1 - Do Nothing. The Council could continue to progress the existing Council Plan document until it expires in 2025. This option is not desirable as it would mean any new strategic priorities and activity to be undertaken by the Council would not be reflected.

7. Implications

7.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

8. Background Papers

8.1 Report to Cabinet 11 March 2021 – Council Plan 2021-2025, including:

- Appendix A – Council Plan 2021-2025
- Appendix B – Consultation Summary
- Appendix C – Delivery Plan 2021-2022

9. Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 – Implications.

9.2 Appendix 2 – Council Plan Refresh 2022-23

9.3 Appendix 3 – Council Plan Delivery Plan 2022-23

10. Recommendation

That Cabinet:

- a) Agrees the authority's refreshed Council Plan 2022-23 and recommends it to Full Council for approval.
- b) Notes the Council Delivery Plan 2022-23.

11. Reasons for Recommendation

11.1 The approval of the refreshed Council Plan document will ensure the Council's key strategic priorities and activity remain up to date.

12. Is it necessary to waive the call-in period?

12.1 No.

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Implications

Financial

- 1.1 Information regarding the Council's budget is set out in the Plan alongside the outcomes the Council is seeking to achieve. There are also a range of actions in the Plan to ensure the Council continues to deliver value for money.

Legal

- 2.1 There is no specific statutory requirement for the Council to have a Council Plan. However it is important that the Council sets out its priorities and ambitions so that Members, staff, residents and stakeholders have a clear understanding of what the Council seeks to achieve. Legal advice will be provided on individual projects and initiatives included in the Council Plan as necessary.

Human Resources

- 3.1 The Plan includes a headline initiative and supporting actions relating to the Council's People Strategy and Wellbeing Strategy.

Information Technology

- 4.1 Continuing developments in IT will support the Council's organisational transformation and delivery of the Enterprising Council Strategy as set out in the Plan.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 The Council's commitment to enhancing the wellbeing of communities and individuals and to promoting equality and diversity has been embedded throughout the Plan.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 6.1 The Council Plan clearly sets out the Council's ambition, outcomes, priorities, and headline initiatives.

Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)

- 7.1 The Plan outlines the Council's ambition of being a net zero carbon organisation by 2032, or sooner, and for the county of Derbyshire to be net zero by 2050. This includes a headline initiative and a number of activities relating to climate change, such as reducing emissions from Council land, building and operations; developing a Natural Capital Strategy and working with partners, businesses, and communities to reduce carbon emissions across Derbyshire.

The Plan also includes activities relating to rationalising Council land and buildings and improving the management of those that remain along with progressing the Council's approach to modernising working practices.

In refreshing the Council Plan a review of strategic and operational risks for each Council Plan action has been undertaken with all identified risks assessed and recorded on the new annual corporate risk register.

Activity to ensure that high quality safeguarding services are in place for children and families is included within the Council Plan along with work to address existing and emerging community safety issues, domestic abuse and tackling issues relating to violence against women and girls.