

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

11 March 2021

Report of the Managing Executive Director

**COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025
(Strategic Leadership, Culture and Tourism)**

1. Purpose of the Report

To recommend the authority's draft Council Plan 2021-25 for approval by Full Council.

2. Information and Analysis

As has been reported to Cabinet in regular progress updates, work has been taking place across the Council to implement the Council Plan 2019-21. Over recent months, work has also been undertaken to develop the new Council Plan 2021-25, to drive forward activity over the next four years, and ensure that the Council continues to deliver value for money and support communities and places to thrive.

The Council Plan for 2021-25, attached at Appendix A for consideration, 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. The Plan also sets out priorities to focus the Council's effort and resource 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 Council has committed to move forward on delivering six headline initiatives as set out below, and a range of actions are included in the Plan to support the delivery of the priorities and headline initiatives:

- Leading the county's economic and community recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic creating a £15m fund to support local businesses and residents in need

- Investing £40m in well maintained roads and pathways and developing sustainable methods of travel
- Taking action on climate change, providing community grants for sustainable and green projects and launching the Green Entrepreneurs scheme to help local people and businesses to reduce carbon emissions
- Continuing our ongoing transformation of social care to improve outcomes and make the most effective use of resources
- Mainstreaming the Thriving Communities approach, working alongside a further eight communities, to reduce demand for high cost services
- Promoting our employees' wellbeing and developing their potential

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

2.1 Consultation on the draft Council Plan

Consultation on the draft Council Plan took place between 18 December and 29 January 2021 for a period of six weeks. To encourage responses from members of the public and employees, the Plan was published on the Council's website and publicised through a press release, website publicity and the Council's internal newsletter. The draft Plan was also circulated to key stakeholder and partner agencies from the voluntary and community, health, police, education and business sectors.

A total of 163 responses to the consultation were received. The demographics of respondents were as follows:

- The majority of people who responded to the survey indicated that they were a Derbyshire resident. The second highest category was people who worked within the county
- 15 responses were from a local group/organisation and eight from local business owners
- Of those who responded 61% were female and 39% were male
- The majority of respondents were over the age of 40
- 95% of respondents were White British
- 14% of respondents reported having a disability

Key Findings

Many positive comments were received with people expressing their support for the proposed Plan as well as making suggestions for improvement. As a result of the consultation, a number of changes have now been made to help strengthen the Council Plan 2021-25. This has included changes to the style and language of the document to ensure the Plan is easier to understand.

Ensuring the activity of the Council continues to reflect what is considered to be important by local residents, partners, employees and businesses is key. As a result, a number of new topics have now been included within the Plan. These include actions relating to sustainable travel, cycling, employment skills, additional activity relating to climate change, supporting people in need and promoting employee wellbeing. A summary, outlining the key themes arising from the consultation and the changes to the Council Plan that have been made as a result, is attached at Appendix B.

A detailed report summarising the comments received from the consultation together with the Council's response, will be published on the Council's website.

2.2 Implementing the Council Plan

The Council Plan is supported by an overarching delivery plan. This sets out the timescales and lead responsibility for each action identified within the Council Plan and is attached at Appendix C. In addition, departmental Service Plans have been developed to set out how each department will contribute to the delivery of the Council Plan.

Reports on the delivery of the Council Plan are considered by Cabinet on a quarterly basis. These reports set out the progress that has been made for each action in the plan and the performance of associated key measures.

3. Financial, Human Resources, Property and Equality of Opportunity considerations

The Plan includes a headline initiative, and supporting actions, to promote employee's wellbeing and develop their potential. Information regarding the Council's budget is set out in the Plan alongside the outcomes the Council is aiming to achieve. There are also a range of actions in the Plan to ensure the Council continues to deliver value for money, including continuing to reshape the Council's back office and establishing a new programme management office. Activities relating to rationalising Council land and buildings and improving the management of those that remain are also included. The Council's commitment to enhancing the wellbeing of communities and individuals and to promoting equality and diversity has been embedded throughout the Plan.

4. Transport considerations

A headline initiative and supporting actions relating to investment in well maintained roads and pathways and developing sustainable methods of travel are included within the Plan.

5. Environmental and Prevention of crime and disorder and considerations

The Plan contains a headline initiative and activities on climate change, including 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. Actions to prevent crime and disorder include work to address domestic abuse and to protect residents who are most susceptible to scams, fraud and financial abuse.

6. Health and wellbeing considerations

The Plans set out how the Council will promote health and wellbeing including actions to manage local outbreaks and reduce the spread of the coronavirus, support people to lose weight and stop smoking; support the mental health and wellbeing of children and adults and help people in local communities to take part in physical activity.

7. Key Decision - Yes

8. Call-in

Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No

9. Background papers

Files and supporting papers held in the Organisational Development and Policy Division, in the Commissioning, Communities and Policy department.

10. Officer's Recommendations

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Recommend the authority's draft Council Plan 2021-25 for approval by Full Council.
2. Receive reports on progress in delivering the Council Plan on a quarterly basis.

Emma Alexander
Managing Executive Director