

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

24 March 2021

Report of the Managing Executive Director

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

1. Purpose of the Report

To consider and approve the authority's Council Plan 2021-25.

2. Information and Analysis

The Council Plan for 2021-25, attached at Appendix A for consideration, has been drawn up to set the strategic direction of the Council's work over the next four years, building on the work that has been undertaken to deliver the Council Plan 2019-2021. The Plan outlines 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:

- 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.

A range of actions are included in the Plan to support the delivery of both the priorities and headline initiatives.

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 a draft of the 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 draft 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. There were many positive comments 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 been made to help strengthen the Plan. This has included changes to the style and language of the document to ensure the Plan is easier to understand.

Additional actions have also been included in response to the feedback received, relating to climate change, sustainable travel, cycling, employment and skills, supporting people in need and promoting employee wellbeing. 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 B for approval. In addition, departmental Service Plans have been developed to set out how each department will contribute to the delivery of the Council Plan.

Progress on the delivery of the Council Plan 2021-25 will be monitored and reports will be made to Cabinet on a quarterly basis, setting out the progress that has been made for each action in the Plan and the performance of associated key measures. The Council Plan will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis to ensure that it continues to reflect the ambitions and priorities of the Council.

3. Human Resources, Financial, 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. Background papers

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

8. Officer's Recommendations

That Council approves the authority's Council Plan and Council Plan Delivery Plan 2021-25.

Emma Alexander
Managing Executive Director