

CABINET
12 JULY 2022

Corporate Plan 2020-24 – Mid Point Review

Cabinet Member(s): Leader, Cllr Bob Deed
Responsible Officer: Chief Executive, Stephen Walford

Reason for Report: To consider the comments and feedback from various Council committees in order to determine what, if any, changes ought to be proposed to the Council's Corporate Plan as part of its mid-point review.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Cabinet notes the feedback from its Policy Development Groups and Scrutiny Committee.
2. That Cabinet determines, in light of this feedback, whether any substantive changes should be made and recommends these onward to Full Council as appropriate.

Relationship to Corporate Plan: This report considers the extent to which the current Corporate Plan ought to be revised or amended (following a review report that went to Cabinet on 5th April and subsequently was presented to Scrutiny and each of the Policy Development Groups).

Financial Implications: There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, if corporate plan priorities are to be amended, then resources may need to be reviewed or redirected to enable improved performance in future budget rounds.

Legal Implications: There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

Equalities Impact Assessment: Customer feedback can help the Council identify any groups of people who may potentially be experiencing our services differently to the majority of our customers. When reviewing performance and making recommendations on priorities, the Council should be minded to consider how services might impact on different sections of the community.

Risk Assessment: Any areas at risk of missing targets were highlighted in the previous report as presented back in April. Members are asked to consider how any proposed amendments or revisions to the Corporate Plan may change or increase the risks. The corporate risk register is reviewed regularly and will be updated to reflect any changes if they are proposed.

Climate Change: There are no direct climate change implications arising from this report. However, the Corporate Plan sets out the council's aims, objectives and priorities around climate change.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 A report was taken to the Cabinet in April in light of it being the mid-point of the current Corporate Plan. The Corporate Plan was adopted a matter of weeks

before the pandemic struck and, amongst many other reasons, it was considered timely to reflect on the progress against the Council's Corporate Plan. This report considered the Council's successes over the last couple of years and reviewed the priorities where necessary as we look to move into the second half of the Corporate Plan period.

- 1.2 Following the meeting of Cabinet, it was determined that the report would be put to each of the Council's Policy Development Groups (PDGs) to ensure that all members had the opportunity to contribute and to give their views. This took place throughout the PDG cycle in May and June. In addition, the report was also considered by Scrutiny during this period.
- 1.3 The remainder of this report summarises the feedback as was received as part of those debates and it is for Cabinet to consider whether any changes to the Corporate Plan should be recommended onward to Full Council as a result.

2.0 Feedback and Views

- 2.1 The feedback from each PDG and the Scrutiny Committee can be found in their respective minutes, however for ease of reference the main points are highlighted below. These are separated out into those which might be best described as ward issues or views, wider context thoughts, and those that might form the basis for any substantive amendments to the current Corporate Plan:
- 2.2 Ward or local issues raised include:
 - The consideration of playground equipment specifically for disabled children or those with additional needs.
 - The lack of a strategic cycle path between Tiverton and Exeter.
 - Pricing structure in car parks should not favour electric cars.
 - Could local members or the Council do more to assist in promoting safer/sustainable journeys to schools within local communities.
- 2.3 Wider context observations include:
 - It would be helpful for PDGs to be brought into the budget conversations earlier in the budget-setting cycle.
 - Resources, including officer time, need to be used to best effect in order to achieve the aims identified within the Corporate Plan – including prioritisation as necessary.
 - The pandemic and now the 'cost of living crisis' is going to seriously impact on the Council's ability to achieve all its goals while supporting its residents suffering financial hardship.
 - Recruitment challenges and staff turnover were not helping delivery.
 - High energy costs were a challenge for not only the Council but for local businesses and this could damage the economic outlook yet further.
 - The role of members in lobbying activity, rather than it being solely a work-programmed item on specific issues (such as on the Right to Buy for example).
 - The ability to influence via conversations with our partners (such as on post-16 education provision).

- Reception opening hours could be varied to include some afternoons for those who can't arrive in the morning.
- 2.4 Possible amendments that were discussed included:
- The recognition of the role that the Council plays in supporting refugees and asylum seekers, particularly in light of the additional work pressures associated with supporting schemes such as the Homes for Ukraine scheme.
 - Addressing financial hardship in the district.

3.0 Potential for Revisions and/or Amendments

- 3.1 It is important to note that while many members recognised that dealing with the pandemic had undoubtedly constrained the Council's ability to make progress against all objectives as originally envisaged, none believed that any should be removed or deleted from the Corporate Plan as it was felt that these should not be 'lost' and could be carried forward if necessary towards the end of the plan period.
- 3.2 As can be seen from the feedback, while many useful thoughts were captured, the proposed need for explicit change to the substance of the Corporate Plan was fairly minimal, with most members feeling that it still represented the Council's aims and objectives.
- 3.3 There is no need for the Corporate Plan to include reference to all Council activity or priorities, but if Cabinet considers that the additional items should be added to the Corporate Plan then these will need to be recommended onwards to Full Council as a recommendation arising from this report.

Background Papers

The initial Cabinet Report of 5th April is available here:

<http://mddcmgov01:9070/documents/s24597/Cabinet%20Corporate%20Plan%20Report%20April%202022%20Mid%20Point%20Review.pdf>

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