



Council name	<b>COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>
Name and date of Committee	<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 4 FEBRUARY 2020</b>
Report Number	<b>AGENDA ITEM (10)</b>
Subject	<b>DRAFT PUBLICA BUSINESS PLAN 2020-22</b>
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Councillor Joe Harris Leader of the Council Tel: (01285) 623000 Email: <a href="mailto:joe.harris@cotswold.gov.uk">joe.harris@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Accountable officer	Nigel Adams Head of Paid Service Tel: (01285) 623202 Email: <a href="mailto:nigel.adams@cotswold.gov.uk">nigel.adams@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Summary/Purpose	To receive a presentation on the Draft Publica Business Plan 2020-22; and to make any comment on the Plan for submission to the Publica Board.
Annexes	Annex A - Draft Publica Business Plan 2020-22 Annex B - Report to the Publica Board in December 2019 from the then Incoming Managing Director
Recommendation/s	<b><i>(a) That the report be noted;</i></b> <b><i>(b) that the Committee provides feedback on the Draft Publica Business Plan 2020-22 for consideration by the Publica Board (before a final version Plan is agreed by the Board for presentation to the Cabinet).</i></b>
Corporate priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Respond to the challenges presented by the Climate Change Emergency</li><li>• Deliver good quality social rented homes</li><li>• Present a Local Plan which is Green to the Core</li><li>• Ensure that all services delivered by the Council are delivered to the highest standard</li><li>• Help residents, businesses and communities to access the support they need to ensure a high level of health and wellbeing</li></ul>
Key Decision	N/A
Exempt	No
Consultees/ Consultation	This is the first stage of Member consultation on the draft Business Plan.

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1. As part of the establishment of Publica, a number of items were identified as reserved matters for Council approval to ensure that member Councils retained an element of control over their company. The reserved matters were approved in October 2016 as part of the governance principles underpinning the establishment of Publica. One of those reserved matters is the approval of the Publica Business Plan.
- 1.2. The reserved matters decisions fall to the shareholder representatives to determine - for each partner Council the shareholder representative is the Leader of the Council. To assist the Leader in reaching his decision, both the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet review the Business Plan and suggest any appropriate amendments.
- 1.3. Publica's Managing Director, Jan Britton, along with its Executive Director (Commissioning), Christine Gore, will attend the meeting and give a presentation to the Committee on the Draft Business Plan and answer any questions. The Leader of the Council also intends to be present.

## **2. MAIN POINTS**

- 2.1 The focus of the Business Plan is on supporting the partner Councils to deliver their priorities; improve Publica's approach to commissioning; continue to improve services and customer experience using digital technology; deliver efficiency savings; and invest in staff and managers. Collectively, the strategic key actions that support the Business Plan priorities form a cohesive programme achieving sustainable and embedded change over the Business Plan period.
- 2.2 The Business Plan provides the 'vehicle' to carry forward and address the issues identified in the Incoming Managing Director's report to the Publica Board in December 2019, over the next two years. A copy of that report is at Annex B.
- 2.3 The proposal is for the Plan to cover the next two years, and to review and refresh it in 2021. This will enable a sustained focus on the priorities, and the longer horizon will fit better with the nature of the Plan and its priorities. It will also enable the partner Councils to review the priorities and key strategic actions during the life of the Plan. The legal advice we have received is that this approach is permitted under the Members' Agreement.
- 2.4 The proposed Business Plan priorities are:
  - Support our partner councils to deliver their priorities
  - Get commissioning right
  - Improve customers' experience
  - Become an employer of choice.
- 2.5 The draft Business Plan was considered by the Publica Board on 24<sup>th</sup> January, prior to consideration by each of the Shareholder Council's scrutiny committee(s). The feedback received from each scrutiny committee will be presented back to the Publica Board on 6<sup>th</sup> March. During March-April, the Plan (as endorsed by the Board) will be presented to the Cabinets of the Shareholder Councils, who will make a recommendation to their respective Leader (as Shareholder) regarding formal agreement to the Plan.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 As part of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), savings are included in line with the Publica business case approved in October 2016. Publica is required to deliver these savings and Strategic Action 6 in the Business Plan outlines a commitment in this regard.

### **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Publica's Business Plan has to be adopted in accordance with The Members Agreement for Publica Group Limited.

### **5. RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1. There are no specific risks in adopting the Publica Business Plan as it is based upon the principles and targets set out in the business case approved by the Council in 2016.
- 5.2. If the Council does not adopt the Plan, there is a risk that the company will not be able to commence some of the activities necessary to deliver the savings set out in the business case and the Council's MTFS.

### **6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 6.1. The Committee is able to make any comments it wishes in relation to the Draft Plan.

### **7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

(END)