



# COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council name	<b>COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>
Name and date of Committee	<b>COUNCIL - 25<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019</b>
Report Number	<b>AGENDA ITEM (13)</b>
Subject	<b>CORPORATE STRATEGY 2019 – 2023 AIM AND PRIORITIES</b>
Wards affected	ALL
Accountable member	Cllr. Joe Harris, Leader 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 present to Council the new aim and priorities of the Council; which will set the direction for the new Corporate Strategy 2019 – 2023. Subject to approval, further work will be undertaken on the Corporate Strategy document for presentation back to Members in May 2020.
Annexes	None
Recommendation/s	<i>That Council agree the new aim and priorities.</i>
Corporate priorities	Subject of the report.
Key Decision	YES
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	The Administration was elected upon the Manifesto set out by the Cotswolds Liberal Democrat party at the District Council elections in May 2019.

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1.** This paper presents to Council the proposed aim, priorities and underlying principles that will set the direction for the Corporate Strategy. These strategic statements have been drafted to capture the ambitions expressed in the Cotswolds Liberal Democrats' Manifesto 2019, and so reflect the mandate given to this administration.
- 1.2.** Subject to Council approval, further work will be undertaken on the Corporate Strategy document for presentation back to Members by May 2020. Specifically, this work will develop key actions to deliver on the Council's priorities – based on evidence of community needs and establish the performance framework to manage delivery.

## **2. MAIN POINTS**

- 2.1.** The proposed aim for the new Corporate Strategy is:

Rebuild the Council so it can be proactive and responsive to the needs of our residents and businesses in a fast changing environment, building for the future whilst respecting our heritage.

- 2.1.1.** Working towards this aim, there will be the following key areas of focus:

- Respond to the challenges presented by the Climate Change Emergency
- Deliver good quality social rented homes
- Present a Local Plan which is Green to the Core
- Ensure that all services delivered by the Council are delivered to the highest standard
- Help residents, businesses and communities access the support they need to achieve their ambitions

- 2.1.2.** These priorities will be backed up by three underlying principles, to explain the approach that the Council will use to deliver its business:

- Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Council by promoting a culture of openness and transparency
- Value for money - we will use the Council's resources wisely, but will invest in fabric and future of the District
- Listen, Hear, Act - we will seek thoughts and ambitions from our residents to inform our decision-making

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1.** The above statements set the direction for the Corporate Strategy, and will be supplemented by a list of key actions to be delivered by the Council. The financial implications of these actions will need to be ascertained, as part of the further work to develop the Corporate Strategy, and included within the updates to the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

### **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1.** The above proposals are legitimate expressions of the intent of this current Council, and do not in themselves have legal implications. Any legal implications of the key actions to deliver the above will be considered as part of the ongoing work on the Corporate Strategy.

### **5. RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1.** The aim and priorities set the direction and ambitions of Council. At this stage, the clearest risk is the financial uncertainty of government funding over the medium term which could impact upon the Council's ability to resource and fund delivery of these ambitions. Further work will be carried out to develop key actions to deliver the aim and priorities backed up by robust performance management and risk analysis along with robust financial planning.

### **6. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 6.1.** Key actions will need to be assessed to ensure that they do not impact disproportionately on people with protected characteristics. However, it is the express aim of the Corporate Strategy to meet the needs of residents and businesses and to enable them to thrive – a disproportionate impact on a protected group would not be in keeping with the direction the Strategy sets.

### **7. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1.** While specific implications cannot be identified at this stage, tackling climate change is at the core of the aim and priorities identified above, so it is the absolute intention that this emerging Strategy will have positive implications on climate change.

### **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 8.1.** A Corporate Strategy is widely considered to be a vital document in setting direction for Council – the aim and priorities expressed above have been drafted to reflect the electoral mandate given to the current Council.

**9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**9.1.** The following documents have been identified by the author of the report in accordance with section 100D.5(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 and are listed in accordance with section 100 D.1(a) for inspection by members of the public:

- None

(END)