

 <p>COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL</p>	<p>COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL</p>
<p>Name and date of Committee</p>	<p>CABINET – 12 APRIL 2021</p>
<p>Report Number</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM 9</p>
<p>Subject</p>	<p>PUBLICA BUSINESS PLAN 2020-22</p>
<p>Wards affected</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>Accountable member</p>	<p>Cllr Joe Harris - Leader of the Council Tel: (01285) 263000 Email: joe.harris@cotswold.gov.uk</p>
<p>Accountable officer</p>	<p>Robert Weaver - Chief Executive Tel: (01285) 263000 Email: Robert.weaver@cotswold.gov.uk</p>
<p>Report authors</p>	<p>Bill Oddy, Group Manager – Commercial Development Email: bill.oddy@publicagroup.uk</p>
<p>Summary/Purpose</p>	<p>To consider the Business Plan 2020-22, first approved in June 2020, to note progress and recommend the Leader approves the Plan.</p>
<p>Annexes</p>	<p>Annex A - Publica Business Plan 2020-22 Annex B - Infographic</p>
<p>Recommendation/s</p>	<p>That Cabinet recommends that the Leader (as Shareholder) approves the Publica Business Plan 2020-22 subject to any comments it wishes to make.</p>
<p>Corporate priorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 to access the support they need to ensure a high level of health and wellbeing
<p>Key Decision</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>Exempt</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>Consultees/ Consultation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Publica Board ● West Oxfordshire District Council ● Forest of Dean District Council ● Cheltenham Borough Council

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 shareholder 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.
- 1.2. The reserved matters decisions fall to the shareholder representatives to determine. For each partner Council this is the Leader of the Council. To assist the Leader in reaching his decision the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet reviewed the Draft Business Plan in 2020 and were invited to suggest appropriate amendments before it was adopted.
- 1.3. In 2020 all of the Shareholder Councils adopted the two year business plan (2020-22) which is contained at Annex A and this contains four priorities which are:
- Support our member councils to deliver their ambitions
 - Get commissioning right
 - Be a great service provider
 - Be a great place to work
- 1.4. The Business Plan provides the vehicle to carry forward and address the issues identified in the Managing Director's assessment of Publica. The priorities in the plan are focused 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, and investing in staff and managers.
- 1.5. A set of action plans support the four business plan priorities and strategic actions. Progress is monitored by the Publica Board and progress will be reported to each Shareholder Council as part of their scheduled scrutiny committee programmes.
- 1.6. Although progress has been made with the delivery of the business plan action plans (<https://www.publicagroup.uk/media/1546/publica-business-plan-2020.pdf>) during the last year, in some areas this has been held back as a result of the response to the coronavirus pandemic, which has dominated much of Publica's work on behalf of the partner councils during the last year. The table below outlines some examples of progress that has been made under each priority:

Priority	Progress Update
Support our member councils to deliver their ambitions	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Work to develop a Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-20302) Adoption of an Ecological Emergency Action Plan3) Introduction of a new waste and recycling service across the Cotswolds4) Work to support businesses and clinically extremely vulnerable residents during the pandemic - Outlined in appendix B

Get commissioning right	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5) Awarding contract extension to Ubico to deliver waste and grounds maintenance services for the Cotswolds 6) Launch of Members' Portal to provide support to councillors 7) Production of Commissioning and Procurement User Guide and training for all staff
Be a great service provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8) Launch of new council website and BOT to automate enquiries 9) Implementation of an updated Civica Revenues & Benefits system 10) Adoption of an Agile Working Strategy 11) Making data and business information live
Be a great place to work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12) Implementation of the new pay and grading structure 13) Introduction of new staff appraisal framework 14) Introduction of a benefits platform 15) Registration for Investors in People accreditation and employee survey carried out 16) Commenced implementation of a leadership development programme

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, and invest in its employees' development. Collectively, the fourteen strategic actions that support the business plan priorities form a cohesive programme achieving sustainable and embedded change over the business plan period.
- 2.2 The benefits of adopting a two year business plan were to enable a sustained focus on the priorities and the longer horizon fits better with the nature of the plan and priorities.
- 2.3 The current business plan is now a year old and half way through its life and the Publica Board reconsidered the priorities when it met on the 1 February and they believe they remain relevant and appropriate for the next year. The business plan is being presented to the Cabinet for consideration, recommending that it recommends to the Council Leader (as Shareholder representative) to give formal agreement to continuing with the current plan and priorities.

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 to deliver these.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This 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 and the approval of this business plan in 2020.
- 5.2. If the Council does not approve 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 Council's MTFS.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1. The Cabinet is free to make comments in relation to the Plan, and proposed amendments will need to be agreed by the other partner councils

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1. None