



Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY– 1 MARCH 2022
Report Number	AGENDA ITEM 11
Subject	CONSULTATION ON THE UPDATE OF THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN (2020-2024)
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Cllr Joe Harris Email: joe.harris@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Robert Weaver, Chief Executive Email: robert.weaver@cotswold.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	To introduce the update of the Council's Corporate Plan, which was adopted by the Council on 23 September 2020
Annexes	Annex A – Cotswold District Council Corporate Plan 2020-2024 Update, Spring 2022 (to follow)
Recommendation(s)	<i>That Overview and Scrutiny considers and comments on the Corporate Plan Update and provides recommendations to Cabinet for discussion</i>
Corporate priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Delivering our services to the highest standards</li><li>● Responding to the challenges presented by the climate crisis</li><li>● Providing good quality social rented homes</li><li>● Presenting a local plan that's green to the core</li><li>● Helping residents and communities access the support they need for good health and wellbeing</li><li>● Supporting businesses to grow in a green, sustainable manner, and to provide high value jobs</li></ul>
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Internally, with the Chief Executive Office, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Public Directors, Group Managers and Cabinet, through an Away Day held on 4th February 2022

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1** It is now eighteen months since the Council adopted its Corporate Plan, a period in which there have been major changes, not least a move from Covid 19 lockdowns through to vaccination and a gradual lifting of Covid-19 restrictions. It is therefore appropriate to take the time to reflect on progress against the Council's Corporate Plan, to review achievements and to refresh priorities where necessary.

## **2. MAIN POINTS**

- 2.1** The Council's Corporate Plan ('the adopted Plan'), attached at Annex A, was adopted by Council in September 2023. It set out the Council's Aim and Priorities, and expanded upon these with an explanation of the Council's thinking and the key actions that would deliver on these Priorities.
- 2.2** The Corporate Plan Update ('the Update'), attached at Annex B, holds to the direction established by the adopted Plan, and builds on its parent document by providing highlights of the Council's achievements against these priorities during the current term, and by identifying key tasks for the coming year.

## **3. PROGRESS**

- 3.1** The global Covid-19 pandemic has clearly impacted on virtually all aspects of life over the last two years. The Council has played an important role in responding to this challenge, and proved itself fleet of foot in supporting the vitality of businesses and the welfare of residents. Between April 2020 to September 2021 the Council disbursed £70,696,028 in Local Business Grant payments, and supported 543 residents in need through its Help Hub. In the latter case, the Council trusted in the commitment and energy of local communities - a theme that underpins other achievements, and which continues to influence priorities for the future. The requirement to shift emphasis to deliver a Covid response and recovery programme should not be underestimated in terms of Council resources, and this was factored into the original Corporate Plan.
- 3.2** Against a background of significant Covid challenges, the Council has made progress against actions identified in the adopted Plan. Notable achievements include:
- the launch of a civic pride initiative 'Clean and Green Cotswolds' (creation of 2 new enviro-crime posts to tackle littering and flytipping, backed up with £100,000 seed funding to support local initiatives).
  - Following the adoption of the Council's Climate Change Strategy, initiation of a Local Climate Bond using the Community Municipal Investment (CMI) model (one of only

five UK councils to become part of the Green Finance Institute and Abundance Investment's Local Climate Bond campaign).

- Creation of a Contractual Joint Venture with Bromford Housing Association, to develop social housing on Council-owned sites in Kemble and Down Ampney sites.
- launch of the Local Plan Partial Refresh consultation (Issues and Options) via a new digital consultation platform (Commonplace, receiving 250 comments in the first week).
- launch of a new approach to community grants funding. Crowdfund Cotswold, an online crowdfunding platform (£300000 of funding from 1,333 backers, supporting 19 community-led projects in only its first year).
- Successfully oversaw the relocation of ZeroAvia (a leading innovator in decarbonising aviation) from Cranfield to Cotswold Airport.

**3.3** The Update, attached at Annex B, recognises the key priorities to the end of the Corporate Plan (2024). These priorities set out the strategic direction of the Council, along with identification of key officer and member leads.

**3.4** The Corporate Plan is an overarching strategic document of the Council, and is supported by a number of specific project plans that allow officers to routinely monitor performance and achievement.

## **4. CONCLUSIONS**

**4.1** Good progress has been made against actions identified in the current Corporate Plan. A key element of any plan review is to ensure it remains relevant, current, and continues to identify the key priorities. Following consultation with Cabinet Members, a Cabinet 'Away Day' was held, facilitated by the Local Government Association (LGA), part of which focussed on a discussion around the Corporate Plan Update. This provided an opportunity for Cabinet Members to reflect on any revised priorities and performance against the Plan to date. The LGA endorsed this approach as a sensible part of the Plan refresh, acting as a critical friend during the discussion and ultimately engaging in the draft now presented at Annex B.

**4.2** At this point, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to review the draft Corporate Plan Update, provide any comments, and, if necessary, make recommendations to Cabinet prior to the Corporate Plan Update ultimately being presented to Full Council later this year.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**5.1** None resulting immediately from this report.

## **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**6.1** None resulting immediately from this report.

## **7. RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 7.1 This document identifies the Council's priorities for the coming year, and up until 2024. Without recognising the need for an update, and undertaking this refresh of the document, there is a risk that the Council's Corporate Plan does not evolve to reflect new circumstances.

## **8. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 8.1 This plan update sets the strategic framework for the Council's actions. The decisions on these actions will review equalities impact in full detail.

## **9. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The Council's declaration of a Climate Change Emergency and an Ecological Emergency are at the heart of the Council's Corporate Strategy. This update maintains this focus, and adds further detail on progress to date and on the Council's ambitions on these themes

## **10. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 10.1 None

## **11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 11.1 None