



Council name	<b>COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>
Name and date of Committee	<b>COUNCIL – 24 JANUARY 2024</b>
Subject	<b>APPROVAL OF THE CORPORATE PLAN 2024 - 2028</b>
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Joe Harris, Leader of the Council Email: <a href="mailto:joe.harris@cotswold.gov.uk">joe.harris@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Accountable officer	Robert Weaver, Chief Executive Email: <a href="mailto:robert.weaver@cotswold.gov.uk">robert.weaver@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Report author	Joseph Walker, Community Partnerships Officer Email: <a href="mailto:joseph.walker@cotswold.gov.uk">joseph.walker@cotswold.gov.uk</a>
Summary/Purpose	To present the Council's Corporate Plan 2024-2028, for adoption by Full Council.
Annexes	Annex A – 'Our Cotswolds, Our Plan' Annex B – 'Our Cotswolds, Our Plan: Action Plan'
Recommendation(s)	That Council resolves to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Review the appended 'Our Cotswolds Our Plan' and agree any modifications.</li><li>2. Subject to modifications, agree to adopt the plan.</li><li>3. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council to make agreed modifications and consequential amendments to the text and layout.</li></ol>
Corporate priorities	The Corporate Plan is the key document by which the Council's aims and priorities are set out for a four-year period. The 2024 – 2028 Corporate Plan presents variations to the currently agreed Corporate Priorities, reflecting the ambitions of the Administration in their second term.
Key Decision	YES
Exempt	NO



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Consultees/ Consultation	Chief Executive Officer, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Director of Governance, Cabinet Members via Away Days held 22 June and 26 October 2023, Overview and Scrutiny, 8 January 2024.



## **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Council's current Corporate Plan runs until May 2024, so work on refreshing this document commenced earlier this year, after the District Council elections in May 2023. The new Corporate Plan, which will be titled '*Our Cotswolds, Our Plan*' is attached at Annex A. The Plan sets out the Council's Aim, and key priorities, and sets out the key measures of success. The specific objectives associated with each priority, are set out in an associated Action Plan, attached at Annex B to this report.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Council adopted its current Corporate Plan in September 2020, and adopted a mid-term update in May 2022, running until May 2024.
- 2.2 The purpose of the Plan is to set out the Council's Aim and Priorities. Care has been taken to set this out in accessible terms, to provide a clear and common-sense explanation of the Council's ambitions. The priorities are then detailed within an annexed Action Plan, explaining how they will be delivered, timescales and lead Members and officers involved in the implementation and oversight.
- 2.3 The new Corporate Plan, attached at Annex A, builds on the aspirations and achievements of the extant Plan.

## **3. MAIN POINTS**

- 3.1 The Corporate Plan is a key part of the Council's governance, setting out the Council's Aim and Priorities, and providing the architecture against which to report of the Council's performance.
- 3.2 The 2024- 2028 Corporate Plan has been designed to be a simpler, and more accessible. The Aim and priorities have been refreshed and have been simplified to provide a 'plain English' message for residents, and to reflect the ever-more challenging financial climate in which the Council operates. The ambitions are set out below:

Delivering Good Services  
Responding to the Climate Emergency  
Delivering Housing  
Supporting Communities  
Supporting the Economy

- 3.3 The importance of these objectives is explained in the text, expanded upon with the introduction of priorities for the 2024 – 2028 period. These priorities are expanded into an action plan, attached at Annex B, which details the actions necessary to deliver them, and key dates for delivery or review. This action plan will be a 'live' document, which will be



subjected to periodic review to ensure it remains an appropriate tool to deliver the ambitions of the plan. Accordingly, most target dates are within the next 18 months.

- 3.4 Good progress has been made against actions identified in the extant Corporate Plan, providing a solid baseline of current activity. A Cabinet workshop and subsequent away day was held in June 2023. This provided an opportunity for Cabinet Members to reflect on their electoral mandate, their priorities and performance against extant Plan.
- 3.5 An earlier iteration of the Plan and Action Plan was subject to pre-scrutiny via the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, at their meeting on 8 January. Their feedback, including commentary on measuring success, and reflections on the meaning of affordable housing, informed the Plan attached at Annex A.

#### **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 Ensuring there is an up-to-date Corporate Plan is key to good governance and helps to ensure appropriate political oversight of the Council's direction of travel. It also provides officers, businesses and residents with an opportunity to understand what the Council intends to deliver over the next four years, hence providing a means of holding to account.

#### **5. CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 The attached, 'Our Cotswolds, Our Plan' Corporate Plan reflects the evolution of the Council's ambitions, and the circumstances in which the Council operates. Adoption by the Council will ensure the Plan guides the Council's operations for the period 2024-2028.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 None resulting immediately from this report.

#### **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 None resulting immediately from this report.

#### **8. RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 8.1 This Plan identifies the Council's priorities for the coming period, up until 2028. Not replacing the current strategy would leave the Council without an up-to-date Plan and thus without a clear framework to guide Council decision-making.

#### **9. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 9.1 None arising directly from this report. The Corporate Plan sets the strategic framework for the Council's actions. The decisions on these actions will review equalities impact in full detail.



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

10.1 The Council's declaration of a Climate Change Emergency and an Ecological Emergency are at the heart of the Corporate Plan.

## **11. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

11.1 None

(END)