

DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That Cabinet approve the draft Corporate Plan 2024-2028 (Appendix 1) for public consultation.

2. INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

- 2.1 Following the 2023 elections, Cabinet considered its strategic plan for the period of the administration, resulting in the production of a draft Corporate Plan for 2024 to 2028.
- 2.2 The Corporate Plan is the single most important strategy that shapes the way the Council works and defines its ambitions. In doing so it brings together strategic and service objectives, helping the organisation to work towards the same vision, values and priorities.
- 2.3 It will be underpinned by a suitable and proportionate performance management framework that will detail the plan's priorities and monitor its delivery.
- 2.4 This report proposes a draft plan for consultation before final approval of the plan by Cabinet on the 3rd April 2024.

3. DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

- 3.1 The Corporate Plan reflects the ambitions of the new political administration.
- 3.2 The plan has been informed by the administration's election manifesto, feedback from the residents survey, elected members and staff engagement.
- 3.3 Delivery of the plan over the next four years will be led by the administration, and supported by actions to address the administration's commitments and issues residents feel are important. Priorities and actions will be clearly communicated to staff to further support the delivery of the plan.

4. CORPORATE PLAN 2024-2028

- 4.1 The Corporate Plan focuses on the challenges ahead and it is these that have shaped the vision and priorities within the plan.
- 4.2 The vision of the plan is to secure a better future by supporting opportunities for the people and communities we serve, protecting our unique and special place, and

securing a vibrant and prosperous New Forest. This has been organised into the thematic areas of People, Place and Prosperity.

People Helping people in the greatest need and creating balanced, resilient, and healthy communities who feel safe and supported with easy access to services.

Place Delivering growth, opportunity and services that shape our place now and for future generations, within a unique environmental context, to ensure we remain a special place to live, work and visit.

Prosperity Promoting a strong local economy that delivers its aspirations through effective partnerships, attracting investment, and increasing skills and employment opportunities.

4.4 Each theme has a set of priorities with actions and performance measures being monitored and refreshed annually to ensure delivery of the plan.

4.5 The plan contains a clear statement of intent and is further supported by highlighting the underlying values shown below. These values will be made more memorable as they create the acronym 'LEAF'. The principles in this Corporate Plan will be instilled within the organisation through embedding these values as part of our performance framework which will ensure all aspects of the Corporate Plan cascade through our services.

Learning We learn from what we and others do well and where we need to improve, we support staff development and organisational growth.

Empathy We show kindness, actively looking to understand people's different needs, and ensure our services are responsive.

Ambition We are ambitious for our people and our place, embracing innovation and best practice.

Fairness We act fairly, honestly, and openly in all we do.

5. CONSULTATION PLAN AND NEXT STEPS

5.1 Subject to Cabinet approval of the consultation draft, the plan will go out for public consultation. The consultation period will be 6 weeks concluding at the end of January 2024 and will involve publishing the plan on the Council's website. Feedback will be invited via multiple channels such as writing to us and an online form. Residents, Town & Parish Councils, and our partners will be consulted on the plan.

5.2 Due consideration will be given to consultation feedback to ensure that the priorities and intended activities are right given the context of the challenges, before final consideration by Overview and Scrutiny Panels in March and approval by Cabinet in April 2024.

5.3 Alongside the consultation, work will continue to develop the design and associated web pages which will house the approved Corporate Plan.

6. GOVERNANCE AND DELIVERING THE PLAN

- 6.1 The Corporate Plan sits alongside the Council's financial plans to ensure the resources are available and appropriately directed to deliver the plan. Its delivery will be supported by a proportionate performance management framework that will ensure priorities and necessary actions filter through to portfolio resource planning and service plans.
- 6.2 Primarily the plan will be communicated and reported upon electronically, as has been the case with the current plan. This will help keep cost to a minimum as well as making the plan and its delivery more accessible to those interested in specific priorities and activities. Dedicated webpages will be developed to support this.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 A clear focus of the plan is continued financial responsibility. Direct costs arising from the production and publicity of the plan will be kept to a minimum.

8. CRIME AND DISORDER & DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no Crime and Disorder or Data Protection implications arising directly from this report.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The Corporate Plan places a great emphasis on our unique District. These commitments are prominently noted in the introductions from the Leader and Chief Executive – that we tackle environmental challenges and seek to be environmentally sustainable. It makes reference to key work programmes within our Place priority so that we consider the social, environmental, and economic impact of what we do and how we do it. The Corporate Plan therefore seeks to preserve our unique place.

10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Underpinning our delivery is a focus to ensure balance and equity. While we aim to modernise services, make these digital where possible, we will consider digital inclusion and accessibility more generally. We want our services to be within reach of those who need them thus tackling the inequalities in our communities. Additionally, we shall champion equality in our workplace so that we always operate within an inclusive working environment.

11. RESOURCES AND TRANSFORMATION OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL COMMENTS

- 11.1 In supporting the draft Corporate Plan document for publication, Members made a number of detailed comments including reference to emergency planning and joint working with

local councils, recreation facilities, deprivation, Freeport benefits, economic development whilst protecting the environment, and affordable housing.

12. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

12.1 I am very grateful to my fellow Cabinet members and to our staff and leadership team for their contributions towards the development of this consultation draft of our new Corporate Plan. The plan focuses on the challenges we face and sets out our ambitions to respond to these challenges over the next four years, structured around the themes of People, Place and Prosperity. I now welcome the views of our partners, stakeholders and residents as part of the consultation process to further shape the plan and help us secure a better future for the people we serve, protect our unique and special place and support a vibrant and prosperous New Forest

For Further Information Please Contact: Background Papers

Corporate Plan 2024-2028 Consultation Draft

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