

BUSINESS SUPPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

25 JANUARY 2022

COUNCIL STRATEGY AND COUNCIL PLAN REFRESH 2022/23

Report coordinated by: Phil Watts, Chief Finance Officer

Contributors: Children and Adults – Directorate Management Team
Public Health
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Summary

The Council Strategy sets out the Council's key priorities, the outcomes we expect to achieve and the programmes that we will deliver. The Council Plan is the delivery plan which sets out the measures that will be used to track performance against the Council's key priorities.

Following consultation with directorates, this report proposes the Council Strategy 2022/23 and the Council Plan 2022/23.

Members are asked to consider these proposals and forward any comments to Cabinet on 8 February 2022, prior to consideration by Full Council on 24 February 2022, for implementation from April 2022.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 The current Council Strategy and Council Plan were agreed in February 2021 and cover the Council's strategic objectives up to 2023.
- 1.2 To ensure the Council Strategy and Council Plan remain relevant and focused, the key programmes, key measures of success and targets are subject to an annual review process.
- 1.3 The annual refresh for 2022/23 has now taken place. This report proposes the measures to be used for monitoring in 2022/23.
- 1.4 Both the Council Strategy and the Council Plan form part of the Council's Policy Framework, therefore, the proposals will be considered by Cabinet and Council

2. Background

- 2.1 At the Corporate Management Team meeting on 12 August 2020, it was agreed to produce a short-term two-year Council Strategy and Council Plan for 2021/22 and 2022/23, to focus on the recovery from Covid19. A more fundamental review of the Council's Strategy is to take place during that time.
- 2.2 The Council Strategy and Council Plan have been reviewed by Directorate Management Teams (DMT's).
- 2.3 The refreshed Council Strategy can be found at Appendix 1.
- 2.4 The refreshed Council Plan performance measures can be found at Appendix 2. These are split across the Council Plan priorities and values as follows:

Priority and outcome	Proposed Council Plan measures 2022/23	Proposed Council Plan measures 2021/22
Healthy and active communities	6	6
Resilient families	13	13
Older and disabled people living independently in their homes	5	6
All children achieving their potential in schools	9	9
A clean and green environment	3	3
Medway on the map	0	0
A strong diversified economy	3	3
Residents with jobs and skills	4	3
Preventing homelessness	3	3
Delivering new homes to meet the needs of Medway's residents	1	1
Getting around Medway	1	1
Values		
Financial Resilience	1	1
Digital Enablement	1	1
Working together to empower communities	0	0
Creativity and Innovation	0	0
Tackle Climate Change	0	0
Child Friendly	0	0
TOTAL	50	50

3. Diversity Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council has legal duties to pay 'due regard' to the need to eliminate discrimination and promote equality. The Council has a clear diversity impact assessment process which describes how changes to service delivery or new services and policies should be assessed for impact and the requirement for regular review of the equality impact of services and strategies.
- 3.2 A Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) has been completed for the refreshed Council Strategy and Plan and can be found in Appendix 3.

4. Financial and Legal implications

- 4.1 The Council Strategy and Plan are developed alongside the budget setting process, to ensure the financial implications are considered during the development of the priorities and measures. Implementation of a performance management framework allows the Council to evidence how successful it is in achieving against its stated objectives, and for residents it provides genuine accountability on how successfully the Council is administering its resources.
- 4.2 There is no longer a statutory requirement to have a Council Strategy or Plan. This means that they are no longer listed as a plan or strategy which must be adopted by Council in the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000. However, Council has decided to retain both as policy framework documents within the Council's Constitution and thus a decision on refreshing them must be taken by Full Council.

5. Risk management

- 5.1 Risks related to the delivery of the Council Strategy and Council Plan are managed through the Strategic Risk Register in line with the Risk Management Strategy. The Risk Management process helps the Council understand, evaluate, and act on all their risks. It supports effective decision making, identification of priorities and objectives and increases the probability of success by making the most of opportunities and reducing the likelihood of failure.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1 The proposals for Council Plan measures will be presented to Members as follows:

Cabinet	8 February 2022
Full Council	24 February 2022

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 Members are asked to:

7.1.1 comment on the refreshed Council Strategy as shown in Appendix 1; and

7.1.2 comment on the refreshed Council Plan measures as shown in Appendix 2

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Appendices

Appendix 1	Council Strategy 2022/23
Appendix 2	Council Plan Performance Measures 2022/23
Appendix 3	Diversity Impact Assessment 2022/23

Background papers

Council Plan 2016/21