

Rother District Council

Report to	-	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date	-	22 July 2019
Report of the	-	Executive Director
Subject	-	Corporate Plan Delivery Programme

Recommendation: It be **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet approve the programme of a review for a new Corporate Plan, to be adopted in December 2020.

Head of Service: Ben Hook

Introduction

1. The purpose of this report is to present to Members a project plan and timeframe for the implementation of a new Corporate Plan designed to supersede the current Corporate Plan.
2. The current Corporate Plan has been in place since 2014 and is due to expire in March 2021. A new Plan will set the strategic direction and planned approach to delivering an agreed vision for the district. It is proposed to develop a seven year plan which will last until March 2028.
3. Work to develop the new Corporate Plan will commence shortly. It is important to set out a timeframe that allows adequate time for reflection on the current and likely future issues in the district, timely input from Members into the design of the vision, and both internal and external consultation which will inform the relevant objectives and delivery plans.
4. The timeframe set out below is condensed to ensure a Corporate Plan is adopted by December 2020 for implementation commencing April 2021. The timetable proposed provides the opportunity for an in depth consultation within the available staff resources.

The Project Plan

5. The process for the design of the new Corporate Plan will be split into four areas of work:

- a. Pre-consultation work

Pre-consultation work will commence during July 2019 and complete during April 2020. The work will be broken down into the following:

- Review
 - Data analysis
 - Research into good practice and initiatives
 - Review of partner strategies (to ensure alignment where appropriate)

- Review of 'on the doorstep' issues
- Review of the existing Plan and Programme
- Write up review and proposals report
- Internal Consultation
 - Internal Officer consultation
 - Equality Impact Assessment
 - Informal Cabinet meetings
 - Member workshops
 - Develop proposals and an external consultation plan
- Pre-consultation reporting
 - Report to OVSC (16 March 2020) – agree consultation plan
 - Report to Cabinet (6 April 2020)– Agree consultation plan
- Prepare all documents for consultation

b. Consultation period

The formal consultation period will commence during April 2020 and complete during July 2020.

- Deliver on consultation plan as agreed

c. Post consultation

Post consultation work will commence during July 2020 with a final Corporate Plan and Programme ready for adoption in December 2020. The work will be broken down into the following areas:

- Consultation analysis
- Develop final draft Plan and Programme

d. Post consultation reporting (Cabinet November 2020, full Council December 2020)

e. Plan and Programme adoption

- Launch and delivery of action plan

6. Members should note that a vast part of the process for the development of this type of Plan is taken up with consultation. How the Council consults is governed by rules that Council has adopted and from legislation (see Appendix 1). The Council has an adopted Consultation Charter <http://www.rother.gov.uk/article/366/Consultation-Charter> that sets out the Council's commitment to consultation and its approach.

Internal Consultation

7. The internal consultation will focus on the development of a draft Corporate Plan which will form the basis of formal consultation. This period of the process will allow Members, with the support of Officers, to have a significant input into the design of the draft proposals. It is proposed that this

consultation takes the form of workshops, planned for October 2019, based on initial discussions between senior managers and Cabinet.

The Formal Consultation

8. It is proposed the formal consultation exercise will last 12 weeks. This period will allow officers sufficient time to engage partners and residents and to collate feedback and prepare a final draft Corporate Plan for Cabinet to consider in November 2020.
9. It is anticipated that external consultation will follow two strands; a stakeholder event and/or meetings, and an on-line survey for residents. Further internal work will focus on developing the delivery programme.

Conclusion

10. The Corporate Plan will set the strategic direction and the vision for the district until 2028 against a backdrop of reduced public resources and different approaches to delivery.

Dr Anthony Leonard
Executive Director

Risk Assessment Statement

It is important that the Council has a clear direction and purpose in which to allocate its limited resources for the Council to run efficient and effective services. Lack of a Corporate Plan limits the focus and direction of the Council.

Appendix 1: Consultation related legislation

Legislation for local government on the duty to consult:

- The Local Government Act 1999 and subsequent statutory guidance from the Secretary of State puts a statutory duty on all local authorities to consult anyone or organisations (or their representatives) that are or might be affected by any review of a service. Although some parts of the Act were repealed the duty to consult was never repealed. The duty applies to:
 - i. a proposed addition, change or update in policy or strategy, or
 - ii. a proposed change in the provision of a service or
 - iii. the proposed removal or addition of a service or function or
 - iv. a proposed change in provider
- Further duties to consult on certain governance changes are in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 requires public authorities to consult on, and assess, the likely impact of proposed or existing policies on any group of people (in our population), to monitor policies for adverse impacts and to publish the results of such consultation.
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/34/contents/enacted>

The Council is at risk of being taken to a judicial review if it failed to consult when there is a legal obligation to do so or ran a consultation that did not meet the required standards.