

## Rother District Council

Report to	-	Cabinet
Date	-	13 January 2020
Report of the	-	Executive Director
Subject	-	The Progression of the Rother District Public Realm Strategic Framework

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The Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 25 November 2019, considered a report on the Progression of the Rother District Public Realm Strategic Framework. The recommendation and minute arising is reproduced below.

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**Recommendation to COUNCIL:** That the Rother District Realm Strategic Framework be approved and adopted.

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### OSC19/38. **THE PROGRESSION OF THE ROTHER DISTRICT PUBLIC REALM STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK**

Members received the report of the Executive Director detailing the results of the public consultation (including key stakeholders) of the Rother District Public Realm Strategic Framework (PRSF). The responses from that consultation had informed the final draft of the PRSF, which was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The PRSF was structured into three sections: Section 1 which introduced the subject, vision and strategic objectives of the document; Section 2 which analysed the different spatial areas of the district; and Section 3 which set out the delivery mechanisms.

A six week consultation exercise had been completed in March 2019, which included residents and stakeholders. The consultation feedback demonstrated that the PRSF was well received in content, especially well received in its purpose and had widespread support, with 89% of respondents agreeing with the vision and strategic direction. Disagreements with the content were very rare, and related to whether a principle or priority action was deliverable and not about its inclusion.

Councillor Mrs Earl-Williams was in attendance in her capacity as Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Culture, Tourism and Public Realm and thanked the Public Realm Working Group for their work on developing the Framework.

Members had the opportunity to ask questions and the following points were noted:

- Members were disappointed with the lack of feedback from statutory agencies;
- recognising the value of the district's unique heritage assets should also include the landscape, in addition to the built environment;

- the PRSF detailed the Council's expectations for the Public Realm and Section 106 funding could be utilised;
- Members suggested that the PRSF be discussed at the upcoming Parish Conference;
- work was currently being undertaken to look at the structure of reports to be brought before committees, to ensure such issues as the impact on the Public Realm were considered; and
- Members suggested that reference be made within the framework to Climate Action, which would be given consideration.

The PRSF existed to set out a strategy to meet the current Rother Corporate Plan (Core Aim 4). Subject to the current review of the Corporate Plan, it was envisaged that delivery of the PRSF would be a Corporate Priority Project in the new Corporate Plan. As such, it was intended that annual updates would be provided as part of the Annual Corporate Plan Update Report. These would provide information initially on project programming and the development of a delivery plan to align with the Corporate Plan 2020-2027, and subsequently on delivery plan progress.

(Overview and Scrutiny Committee Agenda Item 9).

Dr Anthony Leonard  
Executive Director