

Rother District Council

Report to	-	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date	-	16 March 2020
Report of the	-	Executive Director
Subject	-	Corporate Plan and Delivery Programme Consultation Exercise

Recommendation: It be **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet be requested to agree the draft Corporate Plan 2020-27, as set out at Appendix 2 for a 12-week period of consultation.

Head of Service: Ben Hook

Introduction

1. The purpose of this report is to present to Members a draft Corporate Plan 2020-2027 for a 12-week period of consultation. It is important for the Council to have in place a Corporate Plan so it is clear in its strategic direction and planned approach to delivering progress against its vision for the district.
2. The aim of the consultation is to ensure residents, statutory partners, voluntary partners and interested parties have an opportunity to comment on whether the Council has identified the correct vision for the district and to give a wide audience the opportunity to forward their views on what the priorities for the district should be.

Background

3. The current Corporate Plan (2014-21) is based upon the priorities, in priority order, set out below:
 - An Efficient, Flexible and Effective Council
 - Sustainable Economic Prosperity
 - Stronger, Safer Communities
 - A Quality Physical Environment
4. As part of the Plan, a programme of projects was developed, designed to meet one or more of the priorities above. A total of 29 projects were included in the programme in 2014. The programme has since expanded to 32 Projects. Of these, 16 (50%) are complete, and 16 (50%) projects are in progress. A list of the current projects is available at <http://www.rother.gov.uk/corporateplan>.

The Draft Corporate Plan 2020-27

5. Since the current Corporate Plan was agreed there have been a number of changes; political, social and economic, which together, with increasing demand for Council services, have proved challenging and will require a

change in priorities. A State of The District report (see Appendix 1) summarises data on the following areas:

- Population
- Health & Wellbeing
- The Local Economy
- Housing
- The Environment

This enables the Council to ensure decisions about what the Corporate Plan priorities should be and are based on evidence of need.

6. The Council met for a series of presentations, (including one on the State of the District) and workshops in November 2019 with the objective of feeding into a vision for the district and designing new priorities for the district. The workshops included a visioning exercise, the analysis from which has been used to formulate a draft vision for the new Corporate Plan:

In 2027, Rother will be:

*A place where communities are strong, connected and vibrant;
where people can lead healthy and fulfilling lives, and have a great quality
of life;*

*a prosperous place, with a good mix of employment, including tourism,
creative, and green industries;*

*a place where housing is available in all tenures to meet all housing needs;
working towards being a greener, cleaner, carbon-neutral and
eco-friendly place*

7. The draft Corporate Plan 2020-27 (attached Appendix 2) has been developed to contribute to the above 'vision for the district', by focusing on the delivery of 4 proposed priorities:
 - a. Growing People: delivering safe and inclusive communities
 - b. Growing Prosperity: delivering economic growth
 - c. Growing Places: protecting and enhancing Rother's environment
 - d. Growing Performance: providing quality services and business management
8. Plenary sessions were held at the presentation and workshop event to discuss priority setting and action planning. The discussion from these sessions has been summarised into the action plans set out to compliment the Corporate Plan and designed to deliver on the above vision and priorities. These actions plans are included at the end of the draft Corporate Plan (Appendix 2). A more detailed programme of projects will be designed, once the Plan is adopted, to ensure delivery of the action plans.
9. The new administration has since provided further direction in the form of a set of 10 strategic objectives which have been included within the draft Corporate Plan. In summary, the strategic objectives relate to the following:
 - A Town Council for Bexhill

- Tackling climate emergency
 - Increasing supply of affordable housing
 - Economic development and wellbeing
 - Open Council – ensuring transparency
 - Rectifying the financial deficit
 - Creating a more streamlined management structure
 - Social improvement – a review of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme
 - Improve the land supply position in Rother
10. To ensure these objectives are given a higher priority, they have been included within the action plans as overall 'priority targets'.

The Consultation

11. The consultation exercise will last 12 weeks and then a period of analysis of the results will be required to prepare a final draft Plan for Cabinet to consider on 2 November 2020. The consultation will focus on the following:
- a. Is the draft vision the right vision and if not what our *Vision* for the district should be.
 - b. Are the priorities correct and if not what the *Priorities* for the Council should be.
 - c. What *Actions* we should take to deliver on the priorities and contribute to our vision for the district.
12. External consultation will consist of an on-line survey (back up postal survey). Internal consultation will focus on developing the delivery programme. Further details regarding the consultation exercise are available in the Consultation Plan set out at Appendix 3.

Conclusion

13. The Corporate Plan will set the strategic direction and planned approach to delivering progress against the vision for the district. The draft document and consultation begins the process for ensuring the Council has a Plan in place which meets stakeholder and resident expectations and is able to meet future challenges and service demands.

Dr Anthony Leonard
Executive Director

Risk Assessment Statement

It is important that the Council has a clear direction and purpose in which to meet residents' needs and for the Council to run efficient and effective services. Lack of a Corporate Plan limits the focus and direction of the Council and may lead to ineffective use of limited resources.