

Rother District Council

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 11 January 2021

Title: Corporate Plan Consultation Exercise

Report of: Head of Service – Acquisitions, Transformation, and Regeneration

Cabinet Member: Councillor Vine-Hall

Ward(s): All

Purpose of Report: To approve the draft Corporate Plan and agree the programme for public consultation

Decision Type: Key

Officer

Recommendation(s): It be **RESOLVED:** That:

- 1) the draft Corporate Plan be approved for consultation purposes; and
 - 2) the timetable for public consultation as set out at Appendix B be agreed.
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Introduction

1. The purpose of this report is to present to Members a draft Corporate Plan 2020-2027 for a 6-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.

Analysis / Details of the proposals

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.
6. Cabinet, through the Leader and the Lead Member, has provided a clear direction in the form of a set of 10 strategic objectives which have been the guiding principles in the new draft Corporate Plan (Appendix A). In summary, the strategic objectives relate to the following:
 - Climate emergency
 - Financial stability
 - Increase the supply of affordable home throughout the District
 - Housing list reduction
 - Housing
 - Empowered organisation
 - A fairer society
 - Development of Rother's economy
 - Open council
 - A town council for Bexhill on Sea

The Consultation

7. The consultation exercise will last 6 weeks and then a period of analysis of the results will be required to prepare a final draft Plan for Cabinet to consider on 4 May 2021. 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 further *Actions* we should take to deliver on the priorities and contribute to our vision for the district.
8. 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 B.

Conclusion

9. 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 begin 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.

Financial Implications

10. The draft Corporate Plan has significant influence on Council priorities and spend. This includes creating a financially sustainable Council but also significant spend commitments on housing development and tackling climate change.

Human Resources Implications

11. The draft Corporate Plan outlines actions with regards to a reorganisation of the Council's staffing structure with identified savings targets

Environmental

12. The draft Corporate Plan makes significant commitments to tackling climate change and improving the environment detailing a wide range of activities that will be taking place throughout the life of the Plan.

Other Implications	Applies?	Other Implications	Applies?
Human Rights	No	Equalities and Diversity	Yes
Crime and Disorder	No	Consultation	Yes
Environmental	Yes	Access to Information	No
Sustainability	Yes	Exempt from publication	No
Risk Management	No		

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Appendices:	A – Draft Corporate Plan B – Consultation Programme
Relevant Previous Minutes:	N/A
Background Papers:	-
Reference Documents:	-