

East Herts Council Report Template

Executive

Date of Meeting: 6th July 2021

Report by: Linda Haysey, Leader of the Council

Report title: Annual Plan for 2020/21 and Refreshed Corporate Plan for 2021/22

Ward(s) affected: All

Summary

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR Executive to recommend to Council

- a) That Executive Members review and agree the refreshed Corporate Plan before it is proposed to Council for adoption**

1.0 Proposal(s)

- 1.1 Executive are invited to review progress on the corporate plan to date and comment on refreshed priorities for 2021/22 onwards.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Corporate Plan, *East Herts, A Place to Grow* and the four 'SEED' themes were adopted by Council on 29th January 2020. The Plan sets the strategic direction and priorities for the Council from 2020/21 – 2023/24.
- 2.2 One year into the plan is a good time to review achievements thus far (the Annual Report) and adjust any priorities and actions going forward (the refreshed

Corporate Plan).

2.3 The Annual Report is a summary of achievements in 2020/21 against the 4 SEED themes and consists of the following:

- A one page summary of highlights (Appendix A)
- A short animated video of highlights which is available on the council website:
<https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/latest-news/2021/annual-report-2020-2021>
- A detailed spreadsheet showing progress against each of the actions (Appendix B)
- A detailed spreadsheet showing data against each of the performance measures (Appendix C)

2.4 At the time of adopting the Corporate Plan the UK had not felt the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic which has since become a major focus of activity at a local, district, county and national level. This year's refresh of priorities has therefore been a more substantial process, accommodating various additional actions as well as keeping a focus on original priorities and consists of the following:

- A 'one page plan' for each of the 4 SEED themes – summarising the challenges faced and the updated high level priorities (Appendix D)
- A detailed spreadsheet showing all the actions and indicators under each theme with a summary of any changes made since last year (Appendix E). Please note the "Sustainability at the heart of everything we do" theme is in a different format to the other themes as the action plan is updated on a monthly basis

2.5 The refreshed corporate plan was shared with Overview and Scrutiny Members on the 8th July. Feedback included:

- The highlight video was positively received (as a result it has now been placed on the website)
- Many of the proposed actions could benefit from further detail at the ward level so Members can understand the impacts at a very local level. In future reporting of progress against the priorities it was agreed that this would be provided where possible
- Some changes were suggested regarding overall profile of some actions and whether they needed to be more significant (eg. working with the community to plant trees)
- Suggested change to re-implement the discretionary grant scheme for new businesses. This is likely to be addressed by the additional of a new, central government funded scheme aimed at encouraging businesses to take on vacant premises in the district (plans to be finalised in late June)
- Additional clarity sought from some Members on actions such as receptions and when/ if they will re-open

2.6 Once agreed, the priorities and actions in the corporate plan will be built into service, team and individual performance plans to ensure that all officers are clear how their work is directed towards achieving Council objectives.

3.0 Reason(s)

3.1 To seek Executive views on the new Corporate Plan.

4.0 Options

4.1 The new Corporate Plan priorities have been developed

by Executive Members with support and advice from officers on deliverability, risks and financial implications. No alternatives are currently being considered, as to do so would disregard the development process which has been undertaken.

5.0 Risks

- 5.1 There is no legal requirement for councils to develop a corporate plan, however, should the Council fail to refresh it's Corporate Plan there may be a risk that resources are not directed towards achieving key priorities.
- 5.2 The impact of these risks would be moderate, however the likelihood would be high should further measures against stopping the spread of Covid be announced.

6.0 Implications/Consultations

- 6.1 The new Corporate Plan priorities will guide the organisation's work over the coming years. They will be reviewed on an annual basis and agreed at Council.

Community Safety

Actions regarding community safety are captured within the refreshed Corporate Plan (See Enabling Communities theme)

Data Protection

No

Equalities

Actions regarding equalities are captured within the Corporate Plan (see Enabling Communities theme)

Environmental Sustainability

Actions regarding sustainability are captured within the Corporate Plan (see Sustainability at the Heart of Everything We Do theme)

Financial

No

Health and Safety

No

Human Resources

No

Human Rights

No

Legal

No

Specific Wards

No

7.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

Appendix A: A one page summary of highlights

Appendix B: A detailed spreadsheet showing progress against each of the actions

Appendix C: A detailed spreadsheet showing data against each of the performance measures

Appendix D: A 'one page plan' for each of the 4 SEED themes – summarising the challenges faced and the updated high level priorities

Appendix E: A detailed spreadsheet showing all the actions and indicators under each theme with a summary of any changes made since last year

Contact Member

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