

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	1 September 2021
Subject:	Council Plan (2020-2024) Annual Refresh and Corporate Covid-19 Recovery Plan Refresh
Report of:	Head of Corporate Services
Corporate Lead:	Chief Executive
Lead Member:	Leader of the Council
Number of Appendices:	Two

Executive Summary:

The Council Plan is a key strategic document which establishes an overarching vision for the borough and sets out, in broad terms, the priorities, objectives and actions that the Council will focus upon to work towards the vision. The current plan (2020-2024) was approved by Council on 28 January 2020. To ensure the plan is a live document, it is reviewed on an annual basis and where appropriate updated. The proposed 2020-2024 (Year 2) plan is attached at Appendix 1.

Given the unprecedented challenge and impact on the Council's services and its residents, communities and business by the Coronavirus pandemic a Corporate COVID-19 Recovery Plan was approved by Executive Committee on 5 August 2020. This plan was developed around the principles, framework and governance arrangements adopted in relation to the 2020–2024 Council Plan. Similar to the Council Plan, to keep the Recovery Plan a live document, the proposed refresh is attached at Appendix 2.

It is the intention at the next annual review, which will be in March 2022 any outstanding actions from the COVID-19 Recovery Plan will be transitioned back into the Council Plan thereby reverting back to one strategic document. The Council Plan and its actions will still acknowledge the longer term recovery challenges presented by the pandemic.

Recommendation:

Subject to any amendments from the Executive Committee

- a) the Council Plan refresh is **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** for adoption.
- b) the COVID-19 Corporate Recovery Plan refresh is **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** for adoption.

Reasons for Recommendation:

To ensure the plans remain live documents, actions need to be reviewed on an annual basis and refreshed where appropriate.

<p>Resource Implications:</p> <p>None arising directly from this report.</p>
<p>Legal Implications:</p> <p>None arising directly from this report.</p>
<p>Risk Management Implications:</p> <p>If the Council does not have an up-to-date Council Plan, then it cannot demonstrate that priorities are being achieved.</p>
<p>Performance Management Follow-up:</p> <p>Delivery of the Council Plan and Recovery Plan actions are monitored through a Performance Tracker which is reported to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on a quarterly basis.</p>
<p>Environmental Implications:</p> <p>None arising directly from this report.</p>

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Council Plan is a key strategic document, which establishes an overarching vision for the borough. It sets out, in broad terms, the priorities, objectives and actions that the Council will focus upon to work towards the vision.

The current plan (2020-2024) was approved by Council on 28 January 2020. To ensure the plan is a live document, it is reviewed on an annual basis and, where appropriate, updated.

The proposed 2020-2024 (Year 2) plan is attached at Appendix 1.

1.2 The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the Council's services and its residents, communities and businesses. Reflecting this, a corporate COVID-19 recovery plan was approved by Executive Committee on 5 August 2020.

This plan was developed around the principles, framework and governance arrangements adopted in relation to the 2020–2024 Council Plan. In line with the approach to the Council Plan, to keep the Recovery Plan a live document, the proposed refresh is attached at Appendix 2.

1.3 It is the intention at the next annual review, which will be in March 2022, that any outstanding actions from the COVID-19 Recovery Plan will be transitioned into the Council Plan - thereby reverting back to one strategic document.

The Council Plan and its actions will still acknowledge the longer term recovery challenges presented by the pandemic.

2.0 COUNCIL PLAN 2020-2024

2.1 In terms of the plan's overall vision and values, these remain unchanged.

The vision for the borough is *'A place where a good quality of life is open to all'*.

The values continue to reflect the fact that we are a Council, which:

- Puts customers first.
- Is positive about working with others.
- Values its employees.

2.2 The plan re-affirms the Council's six priority themes. The priorities are:

- Finance and resources
- Economic growth
- Housing and communities
- Customer first
- Garden communities
- Sustainable environment

Each of the priorities is supported by a series of key objectives. Underneath each objective are supporting actions to be delivered during the year.

2.3 The main purpose of the annual refresh is to review the Council Plan actions under each of the priority objectives and establish the status of each one.

As part of this, there may be a range of outcomes, for example:

An action may have been delivered during the year and therefore can be removed from the plan.

- New actions may have emerged to support the delivery of the priority.
- An action may need to be amended to reflect the changing nature of the action.
- An action may need to be removed as it is no longer relevant or has been deferred.

Live examples of these in the Council Plan refresh include:

- *'In source the management of our homeless property portfolio' (under Finance and resources priority theme)* has been removed as this action has been successfully delivered.
- *'a full review of the bulky waste service* (under Customer First) has been amended to *'Continue to build on the early success of our new bulky waste service'* to reflect that a review has been completed and a whole new service offering introduced. We now want to build on that over the next twelve months.
- *'bring forward the development of Spring Gardens' (under Economic Growth)* has been removed as the project is currently deferred – this will be brought back into the plan if the situation changes.
- There are a range of new actions, including *'deliver the planning service improvement plan' (under Customer First)*, and *'Deliver the Public Services Centre's low-carbon heating and solar PV systems' (under Sustainable Environment)* to *'Develop a fit-for-purpose four-year Housing Strategy' (under Housing and communities)*

3.0 COVID-19 CORPORATE RECOVERY PLAN

3.1 The Recovery Plan was developed and approved to demonstrate how the Council responded in the early stages of the pandemic and to provide the direction of travel for the borough's recovery.

The plan was developed around the six priority themes within the Council Plan. The refreshed document builds on upon the first plan and, in line with the approach used to refresh the Council Plan, actions have been removed, amended or added dependent upon the progress or changing nature of the actions.

Live examples of these in the refreshed Recovery Plan include:

- *'Set up the new Business Transformation Team and shape the year one priorities' (under Customer First) has been removed as the team is up and running.*
- *'Agree and monitor the Tewkesbury Leisure Centre recovery plan in partnership with Places Leisure' (under Finance and Resources) has been amended to 'In partnership with Places Leisure build on the early success of the Tewkesbury Leisure Centre recovery plan' to reflect an agreed recovery plan is in place and early recovery is positive.*
- *'Support the revitalisation of the high streets and retail centres across the borough, including delivery of the Tewkesbury Heritage Action Zone programme, to help drive economic recovery' (under Economic Growth) has been transitioned into the Council Plan during this refresh.*
- *An addition of a small number of new actions such as 'develop and deliver the Welcome Back Fund action plan' (under Economic Growth) to 'promote a healthier lifestyle through working with active Gloucestershire through the 'we can move' programme (under Sustainable Environment).*

3.2 As outlined in the introduction of this report, it will be the intention to transition the Recovery Plan back into the main Council Plan as part of March 2022's refresh.

Importantly, this will not dilute the Council's approach to recovery. There will continue to be a thread related to COVID-19 in future Council Plan refreshes. There are many actions within the Council Plan (particularly around the formulation of new key strategies for priority areas such as Economic Development and Tourism, Housing and Digital Transformation) which will recognise and reflect the impact that the pandemic had on the Council, our residents, communities and our businesses.

4.0 MONITORING PROGRESS

4.1 As with previous Council Plans and as implemented for the Recovery Plan, the Council will continue to use the established Performance Tracker document, which monitors delivery of the actions.

The Performance Tracker is reported to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on a quarterly basis. Outcomes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee review are then reported to Executive Committee by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. As detailed above, to ensure plans remain 'live' and relevant, an annual refresh is undertaken.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 None.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 Heads of Service and Operational Managers have been pivotal in putting forward new actions.

7.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

7.1 There are a number of key strategies that support delivery of Council Plan priorities. For example, digital strategy, housing and homelessness strategy, economic development and tourism strategy, etc.

8.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES

8.1 A wide range of government policies underpin actions within the priority themes.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)

9.1 No direct resource implications.

10.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)

10.1 The Council Plan seeks to ensure economic, social and environmental sustainability.

11.0 IMPACT UPON (Value For Money/Equalities/E-Government/Human Rights/Health And Safety)

11.1 The Council Plan seeks to ensure value for money and equitable service provision.

12.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS

12.1 Council Plan (2021-2024)- approved by Council 28 January 2020.

Covid-19 Corporate Recovery Plan - approved by Executive Committee 5 August 2020.

Background Papers: None

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Appendices: 1 – Draft Council plan (2020-2024) Year 2 refresh.
2 – Draft COVID-19 Corporate Recovery Plan refresh.