

Dorset Council

20 October 2022

Refreshed Council Plan 2022 - 2024

For Recommendation to Council

Portfolio Holder: Cllr J Haynes, Corporate Development and Transformation

Local Councillor(s): All

Executive Director: M Prosser, Chief Executive

Report Author: Aidan Dunn
Title: Executive Director for Corporate Development
Tel: 01305 838086
Email: aidan.dunn@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

Members of the Council approve the refreshed Council Plan 2022-24 and the new strategic delivery plan.

Reason for Recommendation:

As the strategic document setting out the priorities of the council for 2022 - 24, this should be approved by all Dorset councillors.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Dorset Council plan is the council's key strategic planning document, which articulates the council's overall aims and ambitions, and is the focus for setting key targets for the council.
- 1.2 The first iteration of the Dorset Council plan was approved by Full Council on 18 February 2020. A second iteration was developed following the COVID-19 pandemic, to reflect some of the changed priorities and support COVID recovery. This was approved by Cabinet on 5 October 2021 and is available on the council website: www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/council-plan. This version of the plan continues to follow the same format as previous iterations for continuity.

1.3 At the Annual Council meeting on Thursday 12 May 2022, Leader Cllr Spencer Flower set out 10 priorities as his 'leadership mission statement'. These 10 Cabinet Commitments relate to:

- a) Dorset Local Plan
- b) Housing for local people
- c) Adult social care
- d) Children's services
- e) Assets and property
- f) Working with the Integrated Care system
- g) Climate and ecological strategy
- h) Community safety
- i) County deal
- j) Digital innovation

1.4 Councillors and officers have reviewed the Dorset Council Plan to ensure that 10 commitments are fully incorporated alongside agreed transformation plans. Once approved by full Council, this refreshed Dorset Council Plan will become council policy for delivery, streamlining our policy documents and providing a clear strategic focus.

1.5 The development of the plan has been led by Councillors through the following steps:

- 12 May: Cabinet mission statement shared with full Council
- 7 June: Review of the draft council plan at People and Health Overview Committee
- 28 June: Review of the draft council plan at Places and Resources Overview Committee
- 26 July: Council Plan reviewed at Cabinet and recommended to full council
- 20 October: Recommended for approval by full Council

Amendments made to the Dorset Council Plan as a result of this consultation process are documented in the minutes of each relevant meeting.

1.6 The refreshed Council Plan incorporates the following:

- 10 cabinet commitments derived from the leadership mission statement
- Transformation plans relating to activity in 2022-24
- Legislative change
- Service improvement

1.7 The main changes to the Dorset Council Plan are as follows with 6 priorities changed and condensed to 5 priorities:

- a) 'Economic growth' changed to 'driving economic prosperity'

- b) 'Unique environment' and 'climate and ecology' merged to a single new priority 'protecting our natural environment, climate and ecology'
- c) 'Suitable housing' changed to 'creating sustainable development and housing' which also now incorporates more of our work on the Local Plan as well as housing
- d) 'Strong healthy communities' and 'staying safe and well' merged into a single priority for 'creating stronger, healthier communities'
- e) Creation of a new priority 'becoming a more responsive, customer focused council'

- 1.8 A new strategic delivery plan 2022-24 has been created which is attached in draft at Appendix B. This sets out the council's key activities to achieve the 5 priorities in the Dorset Council Plan. These will be monitored quarterly with progress shared with the Dorset Council Cabinet, and annually with Dorset Councillors, residents, businesses and partners.
A summarised version and an easy read version for people with learning disabilities will also be made available on the Dorset Council website.

2. **Financial Implications**

The Dorset Council Plan and Delivery Plan 2022-24 is costed and will be delivered in line with the councils budget strategy and medium term financial plan (MTFP).

The MTFP shows how we intend to ensure that money will be prioritised to those services that matter most to residents and how the council will re-shape itself to be better able to deliver those services within the available funding. This year's budget setting exercise takes place against a national and global background of extreme pressures for councils. There is high and sustained inflation and we have seen a prolonged period of political instability. War in Ukraine and its humanitarian and economic consequences are also being felt globally.

3. **Well-being and Health Implications**

The council continues to deliver services to support residents with their specific needs. The Council Plan is designed to impact positively on the well-being and health of all through the joined up, consistent delivery of over 450 services. This includes the provision of universal and specialist services to residents and businesses alongside benefits driven from responsible management of the natural environment.

4. **Environmental Implications**

Dorset Council is committed to delivering the Climate and Ecological strategy and as such, the new council plan incorporates a priority to ensure delivery of this. The purpose of our council plan is to ensure a joined-up and consistent approach across all council services to ensure that we improve access to and use of Dorset's natural environment in a sustainable way which protects it for future generations.

5. **Other Implications**

None

6. **Risk Assessment**

- 6.1 Having considered the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

7. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

We are committed to ensuring fair and accessible services for everyone in Dorset through the delivery of services and improvements as set out in our council plan. Where the council will make changes to a service or offer, an equality impact assessment will be undertaken to ensure due regard of the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty.

The overall council plan has not been the subject of a separate equality impact assessment but the changes upon which delivery of the plan will depend will themselves be subject to impact assessments.

8. **Appendices**

Appendix A is the draft Council Plan 2022-24

Appendix B is the new draft Delivery Plan 2022-24

9. **Background Papers**

Dorset Council Plan approved 18 February 2020

Dorset Council Plan update with Covid-19 implications approved 5 October 2021

Draft Dorset Council Plan 2022-24 Cabinet paper 26 July 2022

Footnote:

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.