

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Council

15 December 2022

Subject: **Annual Review of the Corporate Strategy**

Report of: **Director of Leisure and Community**

SUMMARY

The Council's Corporate Strategy 2017 to 2023 sets out the Council's vision and priorities for the Borough. The Council's performance management framework requires an annual review of the strategy, to confirm future priorities and update the wording where necessary.

The Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel considered the review of the Strategy at the 15 September 2022 meeting and supported the proposed changes to the Strategy.

The Executive considered the outcome of the review on 7 November 2022 and agreed the recommended amendments to the Corporate Strategy document.

The updated Corporate Strategy 2017-2023 is now presented for adoption by the Council.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) notes the results of the annual review of the Corporate Strategy; and
- (b) approves the updates to the Corporate Strategy.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Council's performance management framework requires the Executive to undertake an annual review of the corporate vision and priorities. The purpose is to confirm future priorities and update the wording where necessary. The outcome of the review will influence the budgets for the next financial year.
2. This is the fifth review of the Corporate Strategy 2017-2023, which was adopted by the Council on 14 December 2017.
3. Any proposed changes to the wording will need to be approved by the Council, because the Corporate Strategy falls within the Council's policy framework under the Constitution.

PROGRESS MADE IN DELIVERING THE CORPORATE PRIORITIES

4. The Corporate Strategy sets out the Council's priorities for 2017-2023 and shows how we have planned to ensure Fareham remains a prosperous, safe, and attractive place to live and work.
5. The Strategy contains six Corporate Priorities for improvement. Progress on each is listed below:

Providing Housing Choices

- The delivery of a new Garden Village at Welborne, which will provide new homes, jobs, schools, and leisure facilities, took a further step forward with outline planning consent, including Junction 10 improvements for the M27, being agreed in 2021.
- The Council continued to deliver affordable rent housing, with the Rose Court scheme opening in 2021. Work began on the development of affordable rent housing for older people at Station Road in Portchester.

Protect and Enhance the Environment

- A 'Clip and Collect' garden waste subscription service was launched in 2021. In its first year the service attracted 40% take up by Borough residents.
- The 'Give Plastic the Push' campaign has been continued and a new anti-littering campaign, 'No More Rubbish Excuses', was launched in March 2022.
- Supporting the Council's commitment to zero-emission vehicles, a trial for the use of biofuel (HVO) in garden waste collection vehicles and smaller diesel vehicles was trialled for a period of 12 months. This has been expanded across several larger refuse collection vehicles.
- To Celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the Council sponsored two areas of tree planting, Queen's Copse and Platinum Copse, both of which were oversubscribed.

Strong, Safe, Inclusive and Healthy Communities

- Outline planning consent was granted for the Welborne Garden Village as part of a planned sustainable new community.

Maintain and Extend Prosperity

- All the new aviation hangars on the Daedalus site are now occupied, and four business units at Faraday Business Park are available for occupation (two of these are already occupied).
- In March 2022, the Daedalus Financial Strategy was adopted by the Council. The overarching principle is that the Council's interest in the whole Daedalus site should make a sustained positive contribution to the Council's overall financial position and, as a minimum, the revenue costs associated with operating and investing in Daedalus should be cost neutral to council taxpayers. In 2021/22, the Council's activities at Daedalus returned a surplus of £193,795.
- The new Gate Guardian sculpture was installed at Daedalus Common.
- Support continued for the construction of highway schemes across the Borough, including the Stubbington Bypass which opened in 2022 and improvements to the southern section of Newgate Lane and a redesigned "all moves" Junction 10 on the M27.
- The *Live Love Local* message was launched to support the area's diverse range of unique, independent shops and food and drink businesses to bounce back after the challenges of the pandemic.

Leisure Opportunities for Health and Fun

- Significant investment in the facilities at Fareham Leisure Centre was completed this year. This joins the investment in Holly Hill Leisure Centre, which opened in 2016, to secure modern and accessible facilities for the residents of Fareham.
- The Sensory Garden in Fareham Town Centre, and Holly Hill Woodland Park, were again awarded a Green Flag.
- In 2022, a wheelchair swing was installed at Holly Hill play park to complement a range of inclusive equipment, ensuring that the Council's open spaces are accessible to be enjoyed by all residents and visitors.
- Abbey Meadows open space and play area is now fully open in Titchfield.
- The Council's vision to remodel Ferneham Hall into Fareham Live, a new arts and entertainment venue, was restarted in 2021 following a pause during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Dynamic, Prudent and Progressive Council

- 2021 saw a return to in-person consultation, with meetings across the Borough relating to the Local Plan, ensuring that residents continue to have the opportunity to comment on the things that matter to them.
- The Council has also conducted consultations on the Local Boundary Review and Taxi Licensing this year.
- The Council managed delivery of the Government's Grants to help support

Fareham-based businesses in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In total, the Council paid out over £64million in business grants and reliefs.

EXTERNAL IMPACTS

6. The Council remained responsive to fluctuating local and national restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This impacted both service provision and the finances of the Council.
7. The Council continued to support the local business community and residents to return safely to normal following the pandemic, managing delivery of government grants, and launching a Live Love Local message to encourage a return to the town centre.

ANNUAL AUDIT

8. The Council's external auditors, Ernst and Young, provide an Auditor's Annual Report which covers the Council's accounts for the previous year. The most recent report was received for the year ended 31 March 2021 and concluded that there were no risks of significant weaknesses in the Council's Value for Money arrangements for 2020/21.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CORPORATE STRATEGY DOCUMENT

9. The Corporate Strategy remains on track, and it is proposed that the Council considers the results of the annual review and approves the minor changes to the current Corporate Strategy document.
10. The revised Corporate Strategy is attached as Appendix A. Pages with proposed amendments have been marked with an asterisk in the top right-hand corner, with the amended text also highlighted.

POLICY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY PANEL

11. The Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel considered the report on the annual review of the Corporate Strategy on 15 September 2022.
12. The Panel recommended that the proposed changes, as set out in the Executive report, be approved by the Executive, when it considered the item at its meeting on 7 November 2022.

EXECUTIVE MEETING

13. The Executive considered the report on the annual review of the Corporate Strategy on 7 November 2022 and agreed the amendments to the strategy document.
14. The Executive recommended the Annual Review of the Corporate Strategy to Council for approval, with the report now presented for adoption by the Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

15. Any cost implications of amending any of the Council's priorities would need to be calculated and reflected in the Council's medium-term financial strategy.

CONCLUSION

16. This report is a key stage in the Council's performance management framework. The

Council is invited to consider the results of the annual review and approve the updated Corporate Strategy 2017-2023.

Appendices: Appendix A – Corporate Strategy 2017-2023

Background Papers: None

Reference Papers: None

Contact: For further information please contact Kat Hillman (01329 824443)