

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 07 November 2022

Portfolio:	Policy and Resources
Subject:	Annual Review of the Corporate Strategy 2017-2023 and Local Service Agreements 2021-2022
Report of:	Director of Leisure and Community
Corporate Priorities:	All Corporate Objectives Apply

Purpose:

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, update the wording where necessary and to provide an overview of the Council's performance for the 2021/22 financial year. The outcome of the Corporate Strategy review will influence budgets and local service agreements for the next financial year.

Executive summary:

The Corporate Strategy provides a clear focus on the most important issues that need to be addressed for the 2017-2023 period. This annual review is an opportunity to consider progress made in delivering corporate priorities during 2021/22 and to assess the impact of any other influences on the Council's services and initiatives.

The Council's strategic framework includes Local Service Agreements to provide details of actions delivered by individual services. Local Service Agreements provide an overview of how the Council is performing alongside the Corporate Strategy. This annual review is an opportunity to consider how well the Council is performing, both as a whole and in key service areas.

Recommendation/Recommended Option:

It is recommended that the Executive:

- (a) notes the Council's performance for the 2021/2022 financial year;
- (b) agrees the proposed revisions to the strategy document, as set out in Appendix B to this report; and
- (c) recommends the Annual Review of the Corporate Strategy to Council for approval, subject to any further amendments.

Reason:

To meet the requirements of the Council's performance management framework and to provide details of Fareham Borough Council's performance for the 2021/2022 financial year.

Cost of proposals:

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

Appendices:

A: Corporate Strategy 2017-2023 – current

B: Proposed updates to the Corporate Strategy – 2022

C: Local Service Agreements April 2021 – March 2022

Background papers: None

Reference papers: None

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Executive Briefing Paper

Date:	07 November 2022
Subject:	Annual Review of the Corporate Strategy 2017-2023 and Local Service Agreements 2021-22.
Briefing by:	Director of Leisure and Community
Portfolio:	Policy and Resources

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 and local service agreements 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. A copy of the current document is attached as Appendix A.
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. Details of the proposed updates to the wording in the Corporate Strategy are attached as Appendix B.
4. The Council's strategic framework includes Local Service Agreements to provide details of the actions delivered by individual services. The Local Service Agreements provide an overview of how the Council is performing alongside the Corporate Strategy. This report is the ninth update since the Local Service Agreements were implemented in 2012 (Local Service Agreements review did not take place for the 2019-2020 year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic).
5. A copy of the Local Service Agreements document updated with the details for the 2021-2022 financial year is attached as Appendix C.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CORPORATE STRATEGY 2017-2023

6. 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.
7. 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 our commitment to zero-emission vehicles, we launched a trial for the use of biofuel (HVO) in our garden waste collection vehicles and smaller diesel vehicles for a period of 12 months. This has been expanded across several of our larger refuse collection vehicles.
- To Celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we 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 occupiers (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 residents in 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 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.
- Managed delivery of the Government's Grants to help support Fareham-based businesses in response to COVID-19. In total, the Council paid out over £64million in business grants and reliefs.

EXTERNAL IMPACTS

8. 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.
9. 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

10. 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 received for the year ended 31 March 2021 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

11. The Corporate Strategy remains on track, and it is proposed that the Executive

recommends that the Council approves the minor revisions to the Corporate Strategy document, attached as Appendix A.

12. The proposed changes are set out in Appendix B of this report, and reflect the work completed on the six Corporate Priorities set out in section 7 of this report over the past year.
13. After the report has been presented to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel and the Executive, it will be presented to Council for adoption, including any additional recommendations. The proposed changes to the Corporate Strategy document will be clearly identifiable throughout the document when it is presented to Council for approval. All proposed changes will be highlighted in the form of an asterisk in the top right-hand corner of each page containing an amendment, with the amended wording also being shaded.

LOCAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS 2021-2022

14. The Council's strategic framework includes Local Service Agreements to provide details of the actions delivered by individual services. The Local Service Agreements provide an overview of how the Council is performing alongside the Corporate Strategy.
15. Overall, the Council's performance indicators show that services are performing well, with some measures returning to pre-pandemic levels.
 - 88.67% of housing repair appointments were attended on time which is an increase of 12% on 2020/21.
 - 100% of abandoned vehicles, offensive graffiti, and fly-tipping were removed within 5 working days.
 - The percentage of Business Rates collected increased from 92.49% to 98.43% as businesses recovered from the effects of national lockdowns.
16. Some services that have not improved since 2020/21 are:
 - The occupancy rate of retail units in the town centre has decreased from 87% to 75%.
 - Due to a backlog of non-urgent repairs that built up during the national lockdowns, and staff shortages caused by self-isolation rules, the average time taken to complete a housing repair increased from 9.05 to 12.51 days.
17. Appendix C shows a copy of the Local Service Agreements document updated with the details for the 2020/21 financial year.
18. The page outlining The Council's Covid-19 response has been updated to place more emphasis on the Council's recovery. It highlights how many Council services were able to return to normal operation as lockdown restrictions were eased.

10/10 SURVEYS

19. Due to the increased workload and pressures placed on services during the COVID-19 pandemic, 10/10 surveys have been placed on hold temporarily. There is, therefore, no 10/10 survey data available for the 2021/22 year. These will now recommence to help monitor customer feedback.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

20. Whilst there are no anticipated financial implications associated with the Local Service Agreements, 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

21. This report is a key stage in the Council's performance management framework. The Executive is invited to consider the proposed amendments to the Corporate Strategy 2017-2023 and recommend these changes to Council, so that the Council's priorities can be reflected in the budgets and local service agreements for the next financial year.
22. The Council's performance across most Local Service Agreements is broadly comparable to previous years. Many measures show that the Council is recovering well from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Kat Hillman (Ext 4443)