

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Report to the Executive for Decision 9 October 2023

<b>Portfolio:</b>	Policy and Resources
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Annual Review of Corporate Strategy 2017-2023 and Local Service Agreements 2022/23</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	Assistant Director (Democracy)
<b>Corporate Priorities:</b>	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 update the wording where necessary and to provide an overview of the Council's performance for the 2022/23 financial year. This is the final review for the current 2017-2023 Corporate Strategy, with the adoption of a new Corporate Strategy for 2023-2029 due in October 2023.

#### **Executive summary:**

The Corporate Strategy provides a clear focus on the most important issues to be addressed for the 2017-2023 period. This annual review is an opportunity to consider progress made in delivering corporate priorities during 2022-2023 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. The 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) Agrees the proposed revisions to the Corporate Strategy, as set out in Appendix B of this report.
- b) Recommends the Annual Review of the Corporate Strategy 2017-2023 to Council for approval, subject to any further amendments.
- c) Notes the Council's performance for the 2022/2023 financial year.

**Reason:**

To meet the requirements of the Council's performance management framework and to provide details of Fareham Borough Council's performance for the 2022/2023 financial year.

**Cost of proposals:**

None.

**Appendices:**      **A:** Corporate Strategy 2017-2023 – current  
                             **B:** Proposed updates to the Corporate Strategy - 2023  
                             **C:** Local Service Agreements April 2022 – March 2023

**Background papers:**

**Reference papers:**

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## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Executive Briefing Paper

<b>Date:</b>	9 October 2023
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Annual Review of Corporate Strategy 2017-2023 and Local Service Agreements 2022/23</b>
<b>Briefing by:</b>	Assistant Director (Democracy)
<b>Portfolio:</b>	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.
2. The 2017-2023 Corporate Strategy was adopted by the Council on 14 December 2017. This is the sixth and final review of the current Corporate Strategy, with the adoption of a new Corporate Strategy for 2023-2029 due in October 2023. A copy of the current Corporate Strategy 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 tenth update since the Local Service Agreements were implemented in 2012 (a 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 2022-2023 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 that Fareham remains a prosperous, safe, and attractive place to live and work.
7. The Strategy sets out six Corporate Priorities. Progress on each priority in the year 2022 - 2023 is set out below:

## **Providing Housing Choices**

- The Council's Local Plan, which plans for the provision of new homes, and employment space across the Borough up to 2037 has now been adopted.
- The Council continued to deliver affordable rent housing, with the opening of affordable housing for older people at Station Road in Portchester.
- We supported the development of a shared ownership development at Capella Close in Hill Head.

## **Protect and Enhance the Environment**

- This year, the Council opened the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Park at Daedalus. The 40-acre park features a network of accessible paths and cycle routes, dog exercise area and various habitats. Around 21,000 trees have been planted in the area.
- A trial of the use of biofuel (HVO) in our garden waste collection vehicles and smaller diesel vehicles was successfully completed this year.

## **Strong, Safe, Inclusive and Healthy Communities**

- 'Fareham in Bloom' has been bringing our community together for over 25 years. The competition ran virtually again in 2022, with hundreds of entries across six categories.
- The delivery of a new Garden Village at Welborne took a further step forward with the formal submission of the Strategic Design Code and Streets Manual this year. A Strategic Outline Business Case for a proposed railway station has been commissioned.

## **Maintain and Extend Prosperity**

- The Council has continued to support local businesses with a series of projects, including the ongoing Live Love Local campaign. We also launched the Fareham Start-Up Launchpad programme in partnership with the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership and held the first Fareham Business Expo.
- All four business units at Faraday Business Park are now occupied.
- Planning permission to replace Osborn Road multi-storey car park with a surface car park has been approved.

## **Leisure Opportunities for Health and Fun**

- Work to remodel Ferneham Hall into Fareham Live is now well underway, with demolition work beginning on site in September 2022.
- The Council continues with its work to enhance our play areas with a range of inclusive equipment. This year, communication boards were installed at Kenwood Road, Kites Croft Close and Blackbrook Park.

## **A Dynamic, Prudent and Progressive Council**

- We have continued to ensure that our residents have the opportunity to comment on the things that matter to them with regular summer Community Action Team (CAT) meetings taking place across the Borough. An additional meeting and exhibition took place at Daedalus relating to the consultation on the installation of Aeronautical Ground Lighting (AGL) at Solent Airport.
- The Council has conducted public consultations throughout the year, including those on the Local Plan, Play Areas, the Osborn Road Car Park, Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) and Ward Boundaries.

### **EXTERNAL IMPACTS**

8. The Council supported our residents with the rising Cost of Living through the provision of information and signposting for support with travel costs, household bills, housing and benefits, and community pantries.
9. The community support offer from the Council was updated to ensure that the many charities and voluntary organisations that offer help and support to our residents are appropriately signposted.

### **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 2022 concluded that there were no risks of significant weaknesses in the Council's Value for Money arrangements for 2021/22.

### **PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CORPORATE STRATEGY DOCUMENT**

11. The Corporate Strategy has remained on track throughout its six-year lifespan. It is proposed that the Executive recommends that the Council approves the minor revisions to the Corporate Strategy document, attached as Appendix B.
12. This will be the final version of the 2017-2023 Corporate Strategy with the adoption of the 2023-2029 Corporate Strategy and its six revised Corporate Priorities planned for October 2023, subject to agreement.
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 2022-2023**

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 our services are performing well with some measures returning to pre-pandemic levels.
16. Some service indicators have improved compared to 2021/22, such as:
  - The number of Environmental Health inspections carried out has increased by 41, from 374 to 415.
  - The proportion of people in Fareham claiming Jobseeker's Allowance decreased from 1.9% in 2021/22 to 1.7% in 2022/23, which is 1.1% below the South East regional average of 2.8%.
  - There has been an increase of 350,706 visits to Fareham and Holly Hill Leisure centre rising from 878,037 to 1,228,743 in 2022/2023.
17. Some service indicators have not improved since 2021/22, such as:
  - The occupancy rate of retail units in the town centre has not changed from 2021/2022, remaining at 75%.
  - We attended 86.9% of housing repair appointments on time which is a decrease of 1.77% from 2021/22. The average time taken to complete a housing repair increased from 12.51 days to 14.2 days.
  - The percentage of Business Rates that were collected decreased from 98.43% to 96.40%, as the current economic climate has made collection significantly more challenging.
18. Appendix C shows a copy of the Local Service Agreements document updated with the details for the 2022/23 financial year.

### **10/10 SURVEYS**

19. During the COVID-19 pandemic, 10/10 surveys were temporarily put on hold. These have not yet resumed, and there is no 10/10 survey data available for 2022/23.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

18. There are no anticipated financial implications associated with the proposed updates to the current Corporate Strategy 2017-2023 or the Local Service Agreements update.

### **CONCLUSION**

19. 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.
20. The Council's performance across most Local Service Agreements is broadly comparable to previous years.

**Enquiries:** For further information on this report please contact Kat Hillman (01329 824443)