

Report to:	Scrutiny
Date:	12 July 2021
Title:	Corporate Plan: Year 1 review
Report of:	Ian Fitzpatrick, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning
Cabinet member:	Councillor David Tutt, Leader of the Council
Ward(s):	All
Purpose of report:	To consider the Council's progress with the Corporate Plan 2020-24 aspirations
Decision type:	Non-key
Officer recommendation(s):	To note progress with the Corporate Plan aspirations
Reasons for recommendations:	To enable Cabinet members to consider specific aspects of the Council's progress and performance.
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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of a review which has been undertaken of the Council's four-year plan (2020 – 2024) at the end of the first year. The report enables the Cabinet to consider the successes and achievements to date and to approve the further development and refinement of the Plan as it moves into its second year.

2 Overview

- 2.1 Soon after the adoption by Full Council of the Corporate Plan in February 2020, a global pandemic was declared. Despite the borough being in lockdown for much of 2020/21, significant progress has been made towards achieving the goals and objectives of the EBC Corporate Plan.
- 2.2 **Performance:** This has been a year of exceptional performance, despite the Covid-19 pandemic. All service areas very quickly changed how they delivered their services to ensure that staff were able to work efficiently and productively in a Covid-safe way. At the same time, residents' needs and those of other

customers have been at the forefront of the council's operations, with service areas ensuring that they were able to meet needs.

2.3 **Projects:** Where possible, corporate projects have continued. Due to obvious covid related restrictions, some projects experienced delays.

2.4 **Key Achievements:**

Appendix 1 provides a fuller list of EBC's achievements against its corporate plan commitments. Some key achievements include:

1. Supporting businesses during the pandemic through the fast-tracked distribution of Government grants to small businesses and launching a dedicated online portal to receive and process applications quickly using automation. The portal continues to be used as the delivery mechanism to deliver the most recent restart grant scheme. In total since March 2020 the **Council has delivered £39.2m in grants to support Eastbourne businesses.**
2. Full refuse, street cleaning and recycling waste services continued despite Covid-19.
3. 148 rough sleepers newly accommodated in 2020.
4. Disability access audits of over 10 public buildings and amenities. These have resulted in changes to buildings and the way services are delivered to promote inclusion of disabled people.
5. Eastbourne Carbon neutral 2030- A plan for action/ strategy produced.
6. The opening of a new Visitor centre in the Welcome Building.

3 Corporate plan: 2021 onwards

3.1 The Corporate Plan aspirations remain but, as with any multi-year plan, delivery and implementation of certain activities will need to continue to be kept under review, particularly given the seismic effects of Covid-19. As has been reported throughout 2020-21, and in line with most local councils, Eastbourne Borough Council has suffered financially during the pandemic, not least of all through a loss of income from our tourism sector. Because of this, the exact details of delivery of the corporate plan and timings thereof will continue to be evaluated to ensure that it still remains appropriate and relevant to delivering the needs and requirements of Eastbourne's residents, businesses, voluntary and community organisations and other valued members of the community.

4 Financial appraisal

4.1 Project and performance monitoring and reporting arrangements are contained within existing estimates. Corporate performance information should also be considered alongside the Council's financial update reports (also reported to

Cabinet each quarter) as there is a clear link between performance and budgets/resources.

5 Legal implications

5.1 Comment from the Legal Services Team is not necessary for this routine monitoring report.

6 Risk management implications

6.1 It is important that corporate performance is monitored regularly otherwise there is a risk that reductions in service levels, or projects falling behind schedule, are not addressed in a timely way.

7 Equality analysis

7.1 The equality implications of individual decisions relating to the projects/services covered in this report are addressed within other relevant Council reports or as part of programmed equality analysis.

8 Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Corporate Plan year 1 achievements