

Report to:	Cabinet
Date:	23 September 2021
Title:	Corporate Plan: Achievements and forward look
Report of:	Ian Fitzpatrick, Deputy Chief Executive/ Director of Regeneration and Planning
Cabinet member:	Councillors Zoe Nicholson, Leader of the Council and Chris Collier, Cabinet member for performance and people
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 and future plans
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 notes achievements in year 1 as well as providing a forward look to future years of the plan.

2 Overview

- 2.1 The Lewes District Council Corporate Plan ‘Re-imagining Lewes District’ focuses on building a sustainable local economy that retains wealth locally, addresses inequalities and underpins our work to become a carbon net zero authority. Soon after the adoption by Full Council of the Corporate Plan in February 2020, a global pandemic was declared. Despite the district being in lockdown for much of 2020/21, significant progress has been made towards achieving the goals and objectives of the LDC Corporate Plan.

2.2 Key Achievements:

The LDC Corporate Plan “Reimagining Lewes District” has three over-arching objectives, as well as making sure that we get our customer services right first time:

- 1) Providing leadership to the district on tackling climate emergency
- 2) Creating sustainable community wealth
- 3) Building homes that you can afford to live

Appendix 1 provides a fuller list of LDC’s achievements with some of those listed below. Elsewhere on this agenda is a housing report.

1. The **Council has delivered £34.1m in support to Lewes District businesses** and supported 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.
2. Full refuse, street cleaning and recycling waste services continued despite Covid-19. In addition, there was a review of waste and recycling facilities at every block of flats in Lewes district resulting in over 100,000 litres of additional recycling capacity being created.
3. Lewes District Carbon neutral 2030- A comprehensive plan for action/strategy was produced. Full details of this are available in previous Cabinet reports.
4. Community Wealth building: Launched an ambitious action plan to build local wealth in the Lewes district which will help transform the district into one that retains wealth locally, is more sustainable, greener and brings greater benefits for people living here. Examples of some achievements: procuring a new East Sussex-based social enterprise for the management of Newhaven Enterprise Centre earlier this year; ongoing delivery of the Local Enterprise & Apprenticeship Platform (LEAP) to provide local skills needed to start and grow a business locally and provide advice to existing businesses; creation of "Eatlocal" and "Shopslocal" websites to promote local suppliers, producers and independent retailers with a "MakeLocal" website also underway to support the local creative and manufacturing sectors.
5. Revised the council tax reduction scheme to provide more support for those on low incomes or incurring financial hardship and introduced an ethical debt collection service

- 2.3 **Performance:** Measuring and publishing the performance out-turn of service areas is done throughout the year to ensure transparency and accountability to our local community. 2020-21 has been a year of exceptional performance, despite the Covid-19 pandemic. All service areas very quickly adapted to new operating methods to ensure that residents’ needs and those of others in the Lewes District community were met through delivering services which kept our

staff safe and allowed them to work efficiently, productively and in a Covid-safe way.

3 Corporate plan: 2021 onwards

3.1 The aspirations of the Corporate Plan remain as strong as ever, despite the seismic effects of the global pandemic and the commitment of Lewes District Council to achieve these is unwavering. The appendix provides some information on our plans for the upcoming years. In brief some key actions under the Corporate Plan headings include:

- Working with district residents to increase the percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting.
- Continuing with our work around community wealth building including through the implementation of a social value charter which will have direct, visible positive effects around the district.
- Developing energy generation in the district through investing in a solar farm.
- Working in partnership with others in Sussex to decarbonise our social housing.
- New Local Plan
- Prioritising healthy homes and places.

3.2 With any multi-year plan, delivery and implementation of certain activities will need to continue to be kept under review, particularly given the ongoing effects of Covid-19. As has been reported throughout 2020-21, and in line with most local councils, Lewes District Council has suffered financially during the pandemic. 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 the district'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