

**Report to:** Cabinet

**Date:** 1 February 2024

**Title:** Reimagining Lewes District: Delivering the Vision 2024 – 2028

**Report of:** Robert Cottrill, Chief Executive

**Cabinet member:** Councillor Zoe Nicholson, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance, Assets and Community Wealth Building

**Ward(s):** All

**Purpose of report:** For Cabinet to consider and recommend the draft plan to Full Council for adoption

**Decision type:** Key

**Officer recommendation(s):** (1) To consider the ‘Reimagining Lewes District: Delivering the Vision 2024 – 2028’ plan,  
  
(2) That any final minor amendments arising from the consultation responses be delegated for amendment to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, and  
  
(3) That full council adopt the plan as its overarching corporate policy document for the next 4 years.

**Reasons for recommendations:** To enable the Council to set out its strategic vision, objectives and priority projects for the next four years and provide a firm basis for forward planning and performance management.

**Contact Officer(s):** Name: Jo Harper  
Post title: Head of Business Planning and Performance  
E-mail: jo.harper@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk  
Telephone number: 07925 893201

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## **1 Introduction**

1.1 The plan attached at appendix 1, ‘Reimagining Lewes District: Delivering the Vision 2024 – 2028’, has been developed to encapsulate the council’s strategic vision, objectives and priorities for the next four years. This Plan is a key document for the council and builds on the previous plan covering the 2020 – 2024 period.

- 1.2 It sets out the council's commitments to its residents and businesses for the next four years. It also outlines a programme of strategic objectives, and the projects that will be delivered in the district. It is important to bear in mind that the next four year's priorities are set against an uncertain and challenging financial backdrop which requires the council to make the best possible use of its limited resources.

## **2 Development of the Plan**

- 2.1 In order to ensure full and wide engagement in the development of this plan, an early draft was developed in the summer of 2023. This was subject to extensive debate and consideration by staff and members, ahead of a formal public consultation period in December 2023.
- 2.2 The key themes build on similar priorities of the previous four year plan, as the Collaborative Alliance continues to deliver its objectives of;
- Delivering high quality, responsive services to local people
  - Supporting local people through challenging times
  - Providing leadership in tackling the climate and nature emergencies
  - Creating sustainable community wealth
  - Building genuinely affordable homes

## **3 Outcome expected and performance management**

- 3.1 The plan provides the authority with a robust framework within which to monitor and assess performance and achievements. Progress against key performance measures will be reported to members on a quarterly basis, as part of normal performance management arrangements (through both the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee and Cabinet). In addition, progress against the plan in its entirety will be reported annually.

## **4 Consultation**

- 4.1 The formal consultation undertaken from 1 – 31 December 2023 provided the opportunity for the public, local businesses, key partners and stakeholders as well as members and staff, to give their views on the draft plan. Attached at appendix 2 is a summary of the consultation findings.
- 4.2 There was, overall, strong support for the plan and the proposed strategic direction it sets out. Various suggestions and requests for clarification were made in the responses received. However, it is not felt that these amount to any significant changes being required. It is recommended, therefore, that the Chief Executive and Leader be given delegated authority to make any necessary minor amendment ahead of consideration by full council later in February.

## **5 Corporate plan and council policies**

- 5.1 As the key strategic document for the council, 'Reimagining Lewes District: Delivering the Vision 2024 – 2028' will be the council's corporate plan for the

next four years. Other plans and strategies developed during this period will need to demonstrate their alignment with this document.

## **6 Financial appraisal**

- 6.1 The financial aspects of all projects and actions as set out within Appendix 1 , 'Reimagining Lewes District: Delivering the Vision 2024 – 2028' will be included within the approved budget for 2024/25 and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, or (in the case of new initiatives which may still be at an early planning stage) will be subject to future reports to, and approval by, Cabinet.

## **7 Legal implications**

- 7.1 Cabinet is asked to recommend the plan to Full Council as Full Council is the appropriate body to make the decision. This is because the plan is part of the policy framework that is required to be adopted by the Council.

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## **8 Risk management implications**

- 8.1 The risk management implications of individual decisions relating to the projects and initiatives covered in this report will be addressed as part of the planning and delivery of those individual projects.

## **9 Equality analysis**

- 9.1 Equality Analyses are being undertaken in relation to the individual projects which make up this Council-wide Plan, and therefore it has not been considered necessary to undertake an overarching analysis of the Plan as a whole. Analyses for the individual projects will be informed by the results of the consultation and ensuing feedback from residents. It should be noted that the section of the plan entitled 'Delivering high quality, responsive services to local people' focuses particularly on the cost of living crisis and how the council is continuing to respond to the challenges faced by local people.

## **10 Environmental sustainability implications**

- 10.1 Sustainability implications will be considered for each individual project within the plan. As per para 2.2 above, sustainability will continue to be a prime consideration throughout all areas of the council's work.

## **11 Contribution to Community Wealth Building**

- 11.1 Community wealth building forms an integral part of this plan, being one of the five key priorities as set out at para 2.2 above.

## **12 Appendices**

- Appendix 1 - Reimagining Lewes District: Delivering the Vision 2024 – 2028
- Appendix 2 – summary of consultation findings

## **13 Background papers**

- [Previous plan for 2020 - 2024](#)