

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Scrutiny</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>5 February 2024</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Corporate Plan 2024 – 2028</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Robert Cottrill, Chief Executive</b>
<b>Cabinet member:</b>	<b>Councillor Stephen Holt, Leader of the Council (Community Strategy, Local Strategic Partnership, the Corporate Plan, Performance and Staff)</b>
<b>Ward(s):</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	<b>For Cabinet to consider and recommend the draft plan to Full Council for adoption</b>
<b>Decision type:</b>	<b>Budget and policy framework</b>
<b>Officer recommendation(s):</b>	<p><b>(1) To consider the Corporate Plan,</b></p> <p><b>(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</b></p> <p><b>(3) That full council adopt the Plan as its overarching corporate policy document for the next 4 years.</b></p>
<b>Reasons for recommendations:</b>	<b>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.</b>
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b>	<p><b>Name: Jo Harper</b></p> <p><b>Post title: Head of Business Planning and Performance</b></p> <p><b>E-mail: jo.harper@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk</b></p> <p><b>Telephone number: 07925 893201</b></p>

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Corporate Plan, attached at appendix 1, 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 supersedes the previous plan covering the 2022 – 2026 period.
- 1.2 It sets out the council's commitments to its residents and businesses and outlines a programme of important strategic objectives for the borough. 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 October and November 2023.

2.2 The key themes of the plan are;

- High quality, responsive services
- Housing and the cost of living crisis
- Economic development and tourism
- Sustainability and environment

## **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 Scrutiny and Cabinet). In addition, progress against the plan in its entirety will be reported annually.

## **4 Consultation**

4.1 The formal consultation undertaken in October and November 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. Views were expressed and requests for clarification were made in the responses received. However, it is not felt that these amount to any significant changes being required to the plan. 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 The corporate plan is the strategic document for the council 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 within the Corporate Plan as set out in Appendix 1 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.

*012631-JOINT-KS 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024*

## **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 'housing and the cost of living crisis' focuses particularly on how the council is continuing to respond to the particular challenges faced by local people adversely impacted by cost of living issues, including those from protected groups.

## **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 Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – EBC Corporate Plan 2024 – 2028
- Appendix 2 – Summary of consultation findings

## **12 Background papers**

- [Corporate Plan 2022-2026](#)