

Report to: **Executive**

Date: **25 January 2024**

Title: **The Council Plan 2024 –28 and Annual Delivery Plan for Year 1**

Portfolio Area: **Councillor Julian Brazil
Leader of the Council**

Wards Affected: **All**

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RECOMMENDATIONS:**That the Executive:**

- 1. CONSIDER The Council Plan 2024-2028 as set out in Appendix A and Year 1 (2024/25) delivery plan in Appendix B;**
- 2. RECOMMEND that Council adopt 'The Council Plan' and delivery plan at its meeting on 15 February 2024; and**
- 3. RECOMMEND to Council to approve the funding for the 2024-25 delivery plan (as set out in section 4.2 of this report).**

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The Executive considered an updated draft of The Council Plan at its meeting on 30 November 2023 and agreed to hold a further meeting of Advisory Groups to inform the delivery plan for the 2024/25 financial year.
- 1.2 Following meetings of the Advisory Groups, work has continued with Executive Lead Members to refine actions in the delivery plan.
- 1.3 A final version of The Council Plan and delivery plan for 2024/25 are set out in Appendix A and Appendix B to this report.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council Plan sets out our longer-term ambitions for the district. To support the ambitions, we have developed thematic delivery plans for each of the key priority areas, which together form the delivery plan, covering the period from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

- 2.2 The thematic action plans have been developed by Executive Lead Members in consultation with officers and have been informed by Advisory Groups open to all Members of the Council.
- 2.3 The delivery plan ensures that our resources are aligned to supporting Members' priorities and that our residents are clear about what we will do on their behalf. Wherever possible SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) targets have been developed to enable the Council to monitor progress against the plan.
- 2.4 Once adopted by Council, the delivery plan will be subject to regular monitoring, annual updates and reporting through the Executive and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

3. The Council Plan implementation and Performance Management

- 3.1 To ensure that the Council remains on track with delivering its plans, the final delivery plan considered by Council will include an outline of the performance management framework for the Council.
- 3.2 The performance management framework sets out how the Council plans and organises its resources to achieve its vision and priorities.
- 3.3 Now that the Executive have developed delivery plans, managers are ensuring that their service plans for the coming year align to those aims and ambitions. In turn, service plans will inform individual employee's objectives for the coming year which will ensure the whole organisation is aligned with the plan.
- 3.4 The framework will also set out how we will monitor progress against delivering the plans and ensures that there is clear accountability and clarity on corporate performance reporting.
- 3.5 In summary, the performance management framework sets out that monitoring will be through a broad bundle of processes including:
 - a) A formal review process of Quarterly Integrated Performance Management reports to Executive;
 - b) An updated suite of service key performance indicators (KPI's) which will be reported to Overview and Scrutiny
 - c) Thematic action plan reports to Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

4. Resource Implications

4.1 At its meeting on 21 September 2023, the Executive considered the outcome of a review of Earmarked Reserves and the Capital Programme. This report identified £1.541m of Earmarked Reserves which are potentially available to support the delivery of the emerging Council Plan and £1.013m of capital resources. These are one-off amounts, so £2.554million in total. This was subsequently approved at Council on 28 September 2023 (Minute CM 30).

4.2 The delivery of The Council Plan represents an overall financial commitment of £4,591,789 for 2024/25, with £3,591,789 financed from existing resources and £1,000,000 of new monies allocated from the £2.554million set out in 4.1 above. The allocation against each theme area for the 2024/25 financial year is as follows:

Theme	24/25 Financial Year	
	<i>To be financed from £2.554m identified in 4.1 above (£)</i>	<i>To be financed from existing core budgets and grants (£)</i>
Climate and Biodiversity	500,000	168,000
Housing	100,000	2,308,789
Community Services	120,000	200,000
Economy and Jobs	75,000	598,000
Core Services	100,000	302,000
Community Development	55,000	15,000
Contingency	50,000	
TOTAL (£4,591,789)	£1,000,000	£3,591,789

The analysis between Revenue and Capital expenditure is as below:

Revenue expenditure	£650,000	£899,362 (of which £551,362 is UKSPF revenue funding)
Capital expenditure	£350,000	£2,692,427 (of which £1.99m is Government grant funding and £0.7m is S106 funding)
TOTAL (£4,591,789)	£1,000,000	£3,591,789

It is recommended that the £650,000 of revenue expenditure is funded from the £1.541m of Earmarked Reserves (as per the Executive report of 21 September) which were identified as being available to support the delivery of the emerging Council Plan. In addition, it is recommended that the £350,000 of capital expenditure is funded from the Capital Receipts Reserve (this is the £1.013m of capital resources identified for The Council Plan).

4.3 The resourcing set out above delivers on the Council Administration's commitment of allocating £500,000 a year on responding to the Climate and Biodiversity crisis. During the current financial year (2023/24), £330,000 of pre-identified funding has been available to support climate and biodiversity projects. Any balance of this funding remaining at the end of the financial year will be carried forward to support future activities.

5. Proposed next steps

5.1 That the Executive consider The Council Plan at Appendix A and Annual Delivery Plan at Appendix B; making any amendments prior to recommending it for adoption by full Council at its meeting on 15 February 2024 alongside the revenue and capital budget for 2024/25.

6. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	Y	The Council Plan is one of the plans and policies that comprise the Council's Policy Framework. Consequently, decisions to approve, adopt or amend the final Council Plan and themes will be decisions of the Full Council.
Financial implications to include reference to value for money	Y	<p>The report recommends an overall financial envelope for each theme based on the actions set out within the delivery plan.</p> <p>The delivery of The Council Plan represents an overall financial commitment of £4,591,789 for 2024/25, with £3,591,789 financed from existing resources and £1,000,000 of new monies allocated from the £2.554million set out in 4.1 and 4.2 above.</p> <p>This has been referenced in the draft Revenue Budget for 2024/25 being considered by Executive today.</p>

Risk	Y	Having an agreed corporate plan ensures that Council resources are aligned to delivering on agreed priorities and plans. There is a risk that the plan is not agreed when finally considered by Council however this is mitigated through our consultation and engagement activity and by forming cross-political party Advisory Groups to shape The Council Plan and delivery plans.
Supporting Corporate Strategy	Y	This report sets out the progress in developing the four-year strategy for the Council.
Consultation & Engagement Strategy	Y	The Council Plan and delivery plans have been refined following a ten-week consultation and engagement period with the public and partners.
Climate Change - Carbon / Biodiversity Impact	Y	The Council Plan sets out our primary commitments to tackling climate change and increasing biodiversity. The investment in the Climate and Biodiversity Theme is shown in 4.2 of this report. Further detail is in 4.3 of this report.
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity		Equality and Diversity Implications have been considered for The Council Plan and overall contribute to a positive impact for our residents. Equality Impact Assessments will be carried out for specific projects within the delivery plan as they commence delivery.
Safeguarding		No direct implications – specific implications will be considered alongside the delivery of specific projects within the plan
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder		No direct implications – specific implications will be considered alongside the delivery of specific projects within the plan
Health, Safety and Wellbeing		No direct implications – specific implications will be considered alongside the delivery of specific projects within the plan
Other implications		None at this stage

Supporting Information

Appendices:

- Appendix A – The Council Plan
- Appendix B – Annual Delivery Plan 2024-25

Background Papers:

- Executive -Corporate Strategy (The Council Plan) & Outline Delivery Priorities – E37/23

<https://democracy.swdevon.gov.uk/documents/s31071/Corporate%20Strategy%20The%20Council%20Plan%20Outline%20Delivery%20Priorities.pdf>