

COUNCIL
19 MAY 2022

REPORT OF CABINET – MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE A DECISION BY COUNCIL

Corporate Plan 2022-27

Recommendation

- 1. The Cabinet recommends that Council approves the refreshed Corporate Plan 2022-27, the four key priorities of Open for Business, Children and Families, the Environment and Health and Wellbeing and their respective performance measures.**
2. Worcestershire County Council's Corporate Plan, 'Shaping Worcestershire's Future 2017-2022', is due to be refreshed. This document has provided a blueprint for the organisation, setting out the Council's core priorities and guiding how the organisation will operate, both internally and with partners across Worcestershire and beyond. It has focused work on four key priority areas:
 - Open for Business
 - Children and Families
 - The Environment
 - Health and Wellbeing
3. Through regular engagement with residents, business and partners, we know the four themes set out in the previous plan cover core responsibilities of the Council and the key areas that people want to see the Council deliver on, and we are committed to continue our strong progress against each area. As such, the Corporate Plan 2022-27 is a refresh of the previous plan, with these areas continuing to be the four pillars by which the Council does business.
4. On **Open for Business**, it is proposed to expand key strategic sites to deliver more highly skilled jobs and support further business expansion. Alongside this, the Council will continue to invest in unlocking growth at key transport sites including Shrub Hill and Redditch Railway Stations, support its partners and deliver further digital connectivity through the provision of gigabit broadband. The Council will also support its partners around plans for Future High Street Fund, Towns Fund and Levelling Up proposals.
5. The Council's continued investment into **Children and Families** will aim to see its children's services rated as 'Good', recognising the significant journey of improvement we have been on. The Council will continue to invest in its school estate, including the delivery of a new secondary school and extra places to keep pace with development.

6. We know our role is to help preserve and protect our **Environment** for future generations. The Council has now agreed a Net Zero plan which will focus efforts to reduce our environmental impact even further whilst still enabling us to deliver sustainable growth alongside maintaining top-quartile condition for our roads and pavements. We will continue to invest in environmental measures that protect our natural environment, enhance our biodiversity and reduce our carbon footprint.

7. Ensuring good **Health and Wellbeing** for our residents remains a key priority for the Council. We'll work ever more closely with residents and communities to encourage active lifestyles, enabling people to live longer, healthier and happier lives. Our work with the NHS and other care partners through the Integrated Care System will help co-ordinate our services and ensure residents receive the right care at the right time to meet their needs.

8. To deliver against our priorities, our journey to reshape our Council alongside our communities and with our partners continues. In response to the pandemic, we've truly become an innovative, forward-thinking and flexible organisation. We intend to continue to harness the benefits and efficiencies of working flexibly, reducing our footprint, and connecting our employees more closely with the communities and partners we work with.

9. We commit to working ever closer with our communities, to build local capacity and allow people to be supported in their area. We will expand our Here2Help programme to provide a single front door of advice and guidance for people, whilst working with voluntary and community groups to strengthen local support.

10. All of this work sits within our 'One Worcestershire' approach to co-ordinating work, investment and priorities across our county. We seek to adopt new ways of working, including co-location and shared service, to embrace a joined-up approach to service delivery that best meets local needs and removes barriers between organisations. We also communicate regularly with our partners in all things we do, to ensure our services do not simply move demand to another organisation – and instead we work together to resolve issues as 'One Worcestershire'.

11. The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board considered the draft Plan at its meeting on 26 April 2022 and comments from that meeting are appended to this report.

Mr S E Geraghty
Chairman

Appendix 1: [Draft Corporate Plan](#) presented to Cabinet on 21 April 2022

Appendix 2: Comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board, 26 April 2022

Contact Points

Specific Contact Points for this report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director of Legal and Governance) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

[Agenda and reports for the Cabinet meeting 21 April 2022](#)

[Agenda for the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board 26 April 2022](#)