

Report from Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board to Council 19 May 2022

Corporate Plan – Scrutiny comments

At its meeting on 26 April, the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) considered the refresh of the Council's Corporate Plan 2022-27. The Board was grateful to the Leader and the Director for Commercial and Change for their attendance at the meeting and for answering the Board's questions.

The discussion at OSPB was wide ranging, but the Board wished to raise the following points with Council:

1. Whilst understanding that the Plan was a refresh, the Board was keen to encourage consultation with stakeholders at all opportunities and was pleased that a number of roadshows were going to be arranged in Worcestershire to share the priorities of the Plan with residents to gain their views.
2. The Board was pleased to note that the Council was working with partners on further plans for continued growth within Worcestershire, which included strategic investment sites.
3. Although Child and Adolescent Mental Health wasn't specified as an individual priority, it was incumbent in the Health and Wellbeing priority vision and objectives.
4. In response to the request for clarification that the measure relating to 'Our Children's Services rated Good by Ofsted' related to all Children's Services, the Leader confirmed that it was written with the four yearly Ofsted Inspection of Children's Social Care Services in mind. However, given the importance of all Children's Services being rated as 'Good' by Ofsted, further thought would be given to expanding the measure.
5. It was suggested that the Children and Families measure stating that at least four out of five schools should be rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted should be a more ambitious target.
6. It was agreed that consideration would be given to including a number against the measure relating to the '% of children getting their first preference school'.
7. Although it would have been good to have seen a separate priority for Adult Social Care rather than it being included as part of Health and Wellbeing priority, the focus on independent living was welcomed.
8. The Leader agreed to consider adding a separate reference in the Plan in respect of quality of life issues relating to crime and disorder matters such as reduction of hate crime, reduction of dependence on drugs and alcohol and support for victims and perpetrators of crime.

9. Consideration would be given to introducing an incentivised staff suggestion scheme for cost saving ideas.
10. It was suggested that '***How we will judge progress:***' (page 17 of the Agenda Report) should be replaced with '**How we will measure this:**'. This will provide consistency throughout the Report.
11. The Board would like to invite the Leader and Chief Executive to provide an annual update on the Corporate Plan (including risk analysis and delivery plans) .