

Meeting date: 5th April 2022

Report to: Council



Subject/report title: The Council Plan 2020 - 2025

Report from: Councillor Ian Courts, Leader of the Council

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Wards affected:

All Wards | Bickenhill | Blythe | Castle Bromwich | Chelmsley Wood |
 Dorridge/Hockley Heath | Elmdon | Kingshurst/Fordbridge | Knowle |
 Lyndon | Meriden | Olton | Shirley East | Shirley South |
 Shirley West | Silhill | Smith's Wood | St Alphege

Public/private report: Public

Exempt by virtue of paragraph:

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To seek approval for the Solihull Council Plan, 2022/23 update.

2. Decision(s) recommended

2.1 To approve the Solihull Council Plan, 2022/23 update.

3. Matters for Consideration

3.1 The Council Plan 2020 – 2025 was approved by Council on 7th July 2020 and an update approved on 13th April 2021. It sets out the direction we want to go in as a Council, how we aim to travel that journey and what we want to see at the end of it. It covers those major steps that we need to take in order to achieve our vision.

3.2 The Plan sets out our headline analysis of strengths, challenges and opportunities, both as a Council and as a borough. It outlines the strategic context that we work in, and how we are developing our service offers and ways of working to better meet the needs of residents, businesses and visitors.

3.3 At the heart of the Plan is the belief that economic development, environmental sustainability and health and well-being must go hand in hand. This is reflected in our nine priorities – which seek to balance and benefit the economy, environment and people / communities.

- 3.4 Learning and recovery from Covid-19 is a theme that runs through the Plan, including economic recovery, recovery of preventative public health services, developments in adult care and support and building on a greater mutual understanding with the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector. The Plan also seeks to ensure that we are maximising the impact of our role as an employer, procurer, investor and service provider to deliver inclusive growth.
- 3.5 We have carried out a review and have concluded that the structure and fundamentals of the existing Plan are still sound. We have, therefore, updated the Plan based on this existing structure. The key changes in the updated Plan are summarised below.
- 3.6 The existing priority 'Sustainable quality care and support for adults and children with complex needs' has been replaced with two new priorities:
- Improving outcomes for children in Solihull; and
 - Good quality, responsive, and dignified care and support for Adults in Solihull when they need it.
- 3.7 This change is intended to give a direct line of sight from the Council Plan into the children's improvement work and also assist Adult Care and Support in demonstrating a clear 'golden thread' from Council Plan to its Directorate Plan.
- 3.8 The updated Plan also brings three environment priorities together into a combined priority titled 'Enhance our natural environment, improve air quality and reduce net carbon emissions'. The net zero action plan is the key delivery plan for this priority.
- 3.9 The Plan contains a set of deliverables for 2022/23 for each of the 9 priorities. Progress in achieving these deliverables will be monitored on a quarterly basis by the Wider Corporate Leadership and is also reported to the Resources & Delivering Value Scrutiny Board each March.
- 3.10 The plan text has been updated to reflect recent and anticipated changes in the context that we work in. Some of the key messages include:
- Children's Services is our top priority for improvement in 2022/23
 - We will adopt a multi-level approach in order to secure the benefits of levelling up and deliver inclusive growth, delivering local benefits and pitching national and international benefits to secure further investment in the borough.
 - The importance of 'getting ahead' through prevention and early intervention. We will ensure that we have a cohesive prevention offer and a clear, common way of describing what we are trying to achieve.
 - We will seek to address disparities in outcomes between different groups through our Health Inequalities Strategy.
 - The changing partnership landscape e.g. the further development of place-based working as part of an Integrated Care System
 - Difficulties in recruiting skilled staff in a number of areas of the Council's business.
 - Changes in the regulatory environment that we operate in.

4. Reasons for recommending preferred option

- 4.1 Through the Corporate and Directorate Leadership Teams we have followed an evidence-led approach to make informed decisions about which activities to prioritise for inclusion in the updated plan. Cabinet Members and the Resources & Delivering Value Scrutiny Board have been engaged in this process.

5. Implications and Considerations

- 5.1 Delivery of the Council's priorities: How will the options/proposals in this report contribute to the delivery of Council Priorities?
- 5.1.1 Consideration of whether changes are needed to the Council Plan is the purpose of this report.
- 5.2 Consultation and Scrutiny:
- 5.2.1 The involvement of partners and communities is integral to delivery of the Council Plan and is built into all of the activities that deliver the plan.
- 5.2.2 The Resources & Delivering Value Scrutiny Board was consulted on the draft plan at their meeting on 1st March. The Trade Unions have been briefed during the preparation of the draft plan.
- 5.2.3 The delivery of the priorities in the Council Plan will be a key focus of the Scrutiny work plan for 2022/23.
- 5.3 Financial implications:
- 5.3.1 The Council Plan sets out our priorities and the Medium Term Financial Strategy allocates and aligns our financial resources to them. They are complementary strategies which are reviewed and updated on an annual basis.
- 5.4 Legal implications:
- 5.4.1 Production and publication of a Council Plan is not a statutory requirement but there are many advantages to doing so e.g. providing a clear vision, strategic direction and a high level plan.
- 5.5 Risk implications:
- 5.5.1 The Corporate Risk Management Policy applies to all of the activities in the Council Plan and will be complied with.
- 5.6 Equality Implications:
- 5.6.1 The Council Plan embraces the Council's published Equal Opportunities Policy Statement and Equality Objectives. These both provide a commitment to the important task of paying due regard to how the Council will work to eliminate discrimination; advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not.

6. List of appendices referred to

6.1 Council Plan 2020-25, Update - included as a supplement on Mod.Gov

7. Background papers used to compile this report

7.1 Council Plan 2020-25, approved 7th July 2020.

8. List of other relevant documents

8.1 None.