

CABINET

27 JANUARY 2023

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

A.3 HIGHLIGHT PRIORITY ACTIONS 2022/23 TOWARDS CORPORATE PLAN THEMES – MONITORING REPORT AT THE THREE QUARTERLY POINT

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide the Cabinet with an update on the positive progress with the Highlight Priority Actions adopted for 2022/23 towards the Council's Corporate Plan Themes for 2020/24.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Corporate Plan 2020/24, adopted by Council, sets out the strategic direction and policy objectives for the Council over that period. Taking the Corporate Plan Themes, Cabinet on 25 February 2022 adopted a series of highlight priority actions for 2022/23 with individual milestones for each of those actions. This meeting of Cabinet provides an opportunity to report on the nine month position on each of those highlight priority actions and the specified milestones.

Circumstances generally (and as individual highlight priority actions are progressed), there be issues that impact on the achievement of individual milestones associated with the highlight actions. This report invites Cabinet to realign (or further realign) those milestones as set out in the Appendix to this report where such circumstances have impacted on the timing of individual milestones.

In addition to the highlight priority actions, Cabinet also approved performance reporting arrangements for those actions. In accordance, with those arrangements, the detail of performance at the end of Quarter 1 (for April to June) was placed on the Council's website in the Transparency data section. All Councillors were advised by email of the data being placed there. Cabinet then received a report on the six month position at its meeting on 7 October 2022. The Q3 position on the highlight priority actions for 2022/23 is set out in this report. The final position at the end of 2022/23 in respect of the highlight priority actions for this year will also be reported in 2023/24.

Normally, this meeting of Cabinet would also finalise its proposals for highlight priority actions for 2023/24. However, with the proximity of the election of all 48 District Councillors on Thursday, 4 May 2023, the adoption on highlight priorities now could be seen as making commitments now that would bind the Council following the elections. This seems unnecessary and to run counter to the approach being taken in the budget process where the opportunity to leave allocation of the Revenue support grant and new Homes bonus to the Council's administration after 4 May. As such, it is proposed to use the start of the 2023/24 financial year to complete/progress the highlight priorities for 2022/23 where there are matters to be progressed/completed.

The Corporate Plan will continue to guide activity in that period. During this period and in advance of the administration following the election being confirmed formally, officers will seek to gain insight of partners and the public on the priorities of, and pressures on, the Council to

support decision making later in 2023 and the development of the 2024-28 Corporate Plan. The focus of the next Corporate Plan may be more restrictive than the current Corporate Plan due to the ongoing and future pressures on the Council.

In considering this report, it is also worth reflecting on the range of significant matters that the Council has delivered in these six months. It has been a busy six months and a range of the bids, and deliverables in that period are set out in the Background section of this report.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Cabinet:

- (a) notes the contents of the report together with the highlighted realignment of particular milestones for particular highlight priority actions set out in the report; and**
- (b) authorises Officers to commence early engagement with partners and the public to seek insight on future priorities for the Council in readiness for development of the Corporate Plan during 2023.**

REASON(S) FOR THE RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Cabinet can consider the progress with the highlight priorities adopted for 2022/23 and accommodate the mechanism for determining whether to adjust certain milestones associated with particular highlight priorities referenced in the report.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not to submit the report to the formal meeting of Cabinet. This was discounted as it does not support the transparency commitments of the Council. It would also not facilitate the identified proposed adjustments to the milestones referenced in the report.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

The Council approved a Corporate Plan for 2020/24 and this established its strategic direction for those four years. That strategic direction itself seeks to reflect the issues that matter most to the local people, the national requirements from Government and the challenges that face the District over that time period. The Corporate Plan was adopted unanimously at the Council meeting on 21 January 2020 (Minute 78 refers).

The themes of the 2020/24 Corporate Plan are:

- Delivering High Quality Services
- Building Sustainable Communities for the Future
- Strong Finance and Governance
- Community Leadership through Partnerships
- A Growing and Inclusive Economy

The Corporate Plan shapes and directs the Council's work and an extensive range of actions

have been, are being and will be undertaken across the 2020-24 life of the Plan to deliver against its themes and priorities.

The Highlight Priority Actions adopted by the Cabinet on 25 February 2022 seek to take forward the Corporate Plan. This meeting of Cabinet provides the opportunity to review progress with the Highlight Priority Actions adopted and realign (or further realign) the milestones for certain of those Highlight Priority Actions in view of the circumstances that now require this.

OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Prior consultation with individual Portfolio Holders has taken place on individual highlight priorities as relevant to responsibilities of those Portfolio Holders.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS (including legislation & constitutional powers)

Is the recommendation a Key Decision (see the criteria stated here)	YES/NO	If Yes, indicate which by which criteria it is a Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Significant effect on two or more wards <input type="checkbox"/> Involves £100,000 expenditure/income <input type="checkbox"/> Is otherwise significant for the service budget
		And when was the proposed decision published in the Notice of forthcoming decisions for the Council (must be 28 days at the latest prior to the meeting date)	

The Monitoring Officer confirms they have been made aware of the above and any additional comments from them are below:

The legal implications of individual actions are assessed when they are brought forward for formal decisions to be made. A number of these decisions will be designated 'Key' Decisions. Consideration of legal implications can then require additional steps to be undertaken which could impact on approved milestones and require them to be realigned.

FINANCE AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The highlight actions set out at Appendix A includes the delivery of the financial savings target within the Medium Term Financial Strategy. In considering all matters it is vital that the balance of resources can be accommodated by this Council and that it does not put further strain on the Council being able to balance its budget each year.

The Section 151 Officer confirms they have been made aware of the above and any additional comments from them are below:

No further comments to those set out in the Appendix in respect of the budget position.

USE OF RESOURCES AND VALUE FOR MONEY	
The following are submitted in respect of the indicated use of resources and value for money indicators:	
A) Financial sustainability: how the body plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;	The linkage between the approval regime for the highlight priorities and the budget for the same year ensures that sustainability is considered.
B) Governance: how the body ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks, including; and	The consultation prior to adopting the highlight priorities seeks to ensure that Cabinet has the relevant information available to it when it makes decisions on these priorities.
C) Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness: how the body uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.	The focus of the organisation on its Corporate Plan and delivering highlight priorities each year seeks to embed learning within the organisation around the associated performance regime.
MILESTONES AND DELIVERY	
These are set out in the Appendix to this report for the individual highlight priorities.	
ASSOCIATED RISKS AND MITIGATION	
The risks relevant to each of the highlight priorities is reflected in the decision making arrangements for those priorities together with mitigation measures.	
EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS	
Due consideration of the public sector equality duty has been given in the preparation of this report. Equality Impact assessments will be undertaken in respect of each of the highlight priorities.	
SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS	
The Council will seek, within the legislative and policy frameworks that are relevant to the individual highlight priorities, to deliver positive social value to the District through the activities referenced in the highlight priorities.	
IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S AIM TO BE NET ZERO BY 2030	
The action plan of the Council towards being net zero is itself a specific highlight priority for 2022/23. As such, progress is reported in the Appendix to this report.	
OTHER RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS OR IMPLICATIONS	
Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below.	
Crime and Disorder	Such considerations and significant issues are addressed within the arrangements for the individual highlight priorities referenced in the Appendix to this report.
Health Inequalities	Such considerations and significant issues are

	addressed within the arrangements for the individual highlight priorities referenced in the Appendix to this report.
Area or Ward affected	Such considerations and significant issues are addressed within the arrangements for the individual highlight priorities referenced in the Appendix to this report.

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

The Q3 position on the delivery of the highlight priority actions for 2022/23, and the related milestones, are set out at Appendix A to this report.

In considering this report, Cabinet is also reminded that in this quarter alone (Q3) 2022/23 has seen the following significant matters:

Tendring4Growth Business Fortnight to Champion Local Firms – A series of business events are being held by Tendring District Council (TDC) this Autumn.

The TENDRING4GROWTH Business Fortnight will see seminars, networking events and a skills fair take place to champion different sectors and fantastic hidden businesses from across the district.

In total nine events will be held across 11 days in October, with full details available at

www.tendringdc.gov.uk/business. Events are free, but attendees are asked to book in advance; while some events can be joined virtually.

New Rubbish Bags for Community Litter Picks – New rubbish bags are now available for groups doing community litter picks.

Tendring District Council (TDC) supports such events by supplying bags and pickers, as well as arranging collection of the waste picked-up by the volunteers.

Now new purple bags are being given out to community groups, to make their efforts more visible and allow better waste management by TDC – also preventing people dumping household waste at the collection point.

OFSTED Reports Good Progress in Apprenticeship Provider - An Ofsted report has found good progress is being made at Tendring District Council's (TDC) apprenticeship provider.

Career Track was rated as "requires improvement" following an inspection in November 2021, and Ofsted inspectors visited the provider in October this year to check on steps taken to improve.

Inspectors assessed four key areas, and found that "reasonable progress" was being made in each – giving them assurance about the work being carried out.

Gold Award For Council As Positive Employer Of Armed Forces Community – Tendring District Council (TDC) has received a gold award for its work to support employment of people from the Armed Forces family.

The council has been recognised for its work in the Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Scheme, with officials collecting the award at an event in London last week (29 September).

Cllr Chris Amos, TDC's Armed Forces Champion, said: "We have done a lot of work to ensure we are a Forces-friendly employer, and that has been reflected in the feedback from our staff who come from this community."

Learning From Junior Ambassadors Showcased At Celebration Event – Young people took to the stage to show off what they had learned during this year's Tendring Junior Ambassadors Project, with a showcase event at the Princes Theatre.

The Tendring Junior Ambassador Project, run by Tendring District Council (TDC), sees Year Five and Six pupils from a number of Tendring schools take part in various activity workshops exploring cultural awareness, throughout the summer and autumn terms.

It encourages young people to learn more about the communities around them and encourages inclusiveness and diversity.

Panto Beats Box Office Record Again – OH YES IT DOES! - This season's pantomime at Clacton's Princes Theatre has once again broken the box office record.

In all, more than 14,000 people came to watch Cinderella, starring George Sampson and the rest of a stellar cast, with ticket sales up by more than £31,000 on the previous year. Theatre goers also enjoyed more than 1,500 ice creams during the interval!

Not only is the figure up on last year's panto, but is considerably higher than the 2009/10 season when professional pantomime came to the Princes Theatre for the first time, which saw just over 5,600 people come to see the show

Investment Plan Approved For Almost £1.2Million Spending In Tendring – Government has signed off on spending plans for almost £1.2million in Tendring.

Tendring District Council (TDC) has received £1.18m from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), spread across the rest of this financial year and the next two. Neil Stock OBE, TDC Leader, said that following last week's announcement the funding agreement had now been signed and returned.

Funding Given To Demolish Disused Town Centre Building - More than £400,000 has been awarded to Tendring District Council (TDC) to demolish a disused town centre building.

The council has received the grant of £420,000 from phase two of the Brownfield Land Release Fund to allow for demolition of Carnarvon House – and prepare the site for future re-development.

The office building, in Carnarvon Road, is owned by TDC and in recent years was leased to the NHS as office space until it was no longer needed.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT DECISIONS

Cabinet on 17 December 2021 (Minute 98) – considered draft highlight priorities for 2022/23
Cabinet on 25 February 2022 (Minute 132) – determined the highlight priorities for 2022/23 and the associated milestones for this year.

BACKGROUND PAPERS AND PUBLISHED REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

APPENDICES

A – Q3 Position on the Highlight Priority Actions approved by Cabinet February 25 2022

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