

RESOURCES AND SERVICES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10 JANUARY 2024

REFERENCE FROM CABINET

A.2 DELIVERING AGAINST THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN 2022-28 – INITIAL PROPOSALS FOR HIGHLIGHT PRIORITIES FOR 2024/25

(Report prepared by Ian Ford)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The Committee is asked to consider and comment upon, as appropriate, the initial proposals for the highlight priorities for 2024/25 submitted to it by the Cabinet.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At its meeting held on 15 December 2023 (Minute 62 refers), the Cabinet had considered a report of the Leader of the Council & Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance and Governance (A.2), which had reminded Members that the Council's strategic direction was set out in its Corporate Plan which was a fundamental element of the Council's Policy Framework. The Corporate Plan ('Our Vision') had been adopted unanimously by Council on 28 November 2023 (Minute 76 referred) and covered the period 2024-28. Key elements of delivering against the adopted Corporate Plan would be through annual highlight priority actions approved by the Cabinet. The 2024/25 initial proposals for highlight priorities had been set out at Appendix B to the Portfolio Holder's report. Through that report, Cabinet had been invited to adopt those for consultation purposes before finalising its highlight priorities for 2024/25; which would involve consideration of the outcome of the consultation undertaken.

Recognising that the rationale for the Portfolio Holder's recommendations was to set out openly for all concerned the initial proposals for highlight priorities for 2024/25 and that this supported the openness agenda of the Council and provided an opportunity for engagement with the public, businesses and partners on those initial proposals. Through consultation it was hoped that the views received could help shape the priorities that would finally be adopted (within the reality of the Council's budgetary position). Cabinet had -

“RESOLVED that Cabinet resolves that -

- (a) the initial highlight priorities for 2024/25, as set out at Appendix B to report A.2, be approved for consultation;*
- (b) all Councillors, other partners and the public be invited to consider the initial priorities referred to in (a) above; and*
- (c) the outcome of the consultation referred to in (b) above be reported to Cabinet on 15 March 2024 in order that Cabinet can formally adopt its finalised highlight priority actions for 2024/25.”*

A copy of the published Leader of the Council's report (and its appendices) to the Cabinet meeting held on 15 December 2023 is attached to this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee considers the Cabinet's initial proposals for the highlight priorities for 2024/25 and decides what comments and/or recommendations (if any) it wishes to submit Cabinet for their consideration.

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION

Published Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 15 December 2023.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 =

Published A.2 Report (and its appendices – see below) of the Leader of the Council for the meeting of the Cabinet held on 15 December 2023

A.2 Appendix A Corporate Plan 2024-2028

A.2 Appendix B Initial Highlight Priorities for 2024/25