

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

21 OCTOBER 2021

Report Title	DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2021 - 2026			
Purpose of Report	This report presents the draft Council Plan which sets out the council's priorities and objectives for the next five years.			
Decision(s)	Council RESOLVES to adopt the draft Council Plan 2021 – 2026 as recommended by Strategy and Resources Committee.			
Consultation and Feedback	The draft Council Plan has been developed in consultation with the Alliance Leadership Team, Alliance members, the Strategic Leadership Team, the Leadership and Management Team and Council officers and the Stroud District Youth Council.			
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Options	Option 1: to do nothing. This is not recommended as it could lead to the Council being without a clearly articulated plan and priorities consequently reducing its public accountability. Option 2: to agree or make amendments to the draft Council Plan.			
Background Papers	None			
Appendices	Appendix A – Draft Council Plan 2021 - 2026			
Implications (further details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** The draft Council Plan has been considered at Strategy and Resources, Environment, Housing and Community Services and Licensing Committees. At all of those committees the Plan was approved with no amendments and the Plan has now been recommended to Council for adoption.
- 1.2** As outlined in section 4 of this report, the performance management framework is currently being developed to identify the performance indicators for the activity within the Delivery Plan. The performance indicators will be categorised into those that we have direct control over and those we contribute to in partnership but are not wholly responsible for.

1.3 The draft Council Plan 2021-2026 will be designed and published in a customer friendly document following its final approval.

2. BACKGROUND

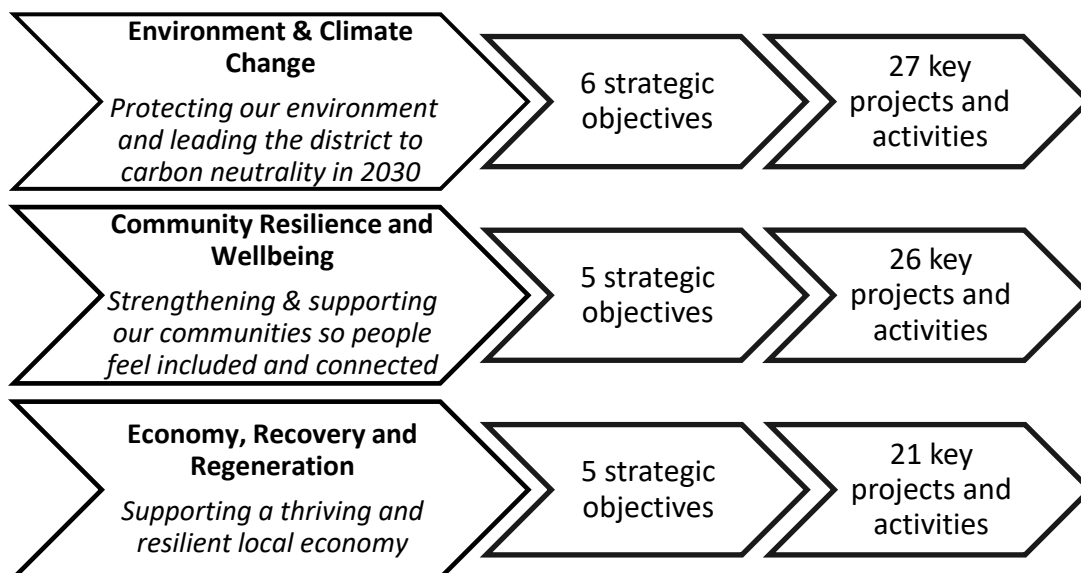
2.1 The council previously adopted the Corporate Delivery Plan 2019 – 2020 and a revised Corporate Delivery Plan was due to be developed after the May 2020 Elections. However, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and the delayed local elections the council developed and adopted the ‘Recover, Reset and Renew Strategy’ for 2020 - 2021.

2.2 The Covid-19 pandemic has had a major impact on our district’s economy and communities and within the work delivered under the Recover, Reset and Renew Strategy we have been taking stock of the impact of the pandemic, focusing on recovery and renewal and identifying opportunities to join up processes and engage with our communities and key partners. From this we have reviewed and developed our priorities and projects and integrated the Recover, Reset and Renew strategy and other recovery activities into the new Council Plan.

2.3 When the Council Plan is adopted, the Recovery, Reset and Renew Strategy will be considered as subsumed into the Council Plan which becomes the overarching set of strategic priorities for the Council.

3. THE COUNCIL PLAN

3.1 The draft Council Plan 2021 - 2026 attached at Appendix A is built on three tiers consisting of our priorities, our objectives and the key projects and activity the council will undertake to achieve our objectives.



3.2 To ensure that the council has a co-ordinated approach to delivering its objectives, the key projects and activities have been outlined in the Delivery Plan which also includes the governance arrangements, the timescale for start and completion of the project and the Lead Officer responsible for the successful delivery.

- 3.3** The Council Plan is a five-year strategy to align with the financial planning cycle and to reflect the longer term goals and ambitions within the plan. Uncertainty due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic continues and the Delivery Plan will therefore remain under review to ensure that resources are being appropriately applied to meet our priorities. The Delivery Plan will be formally reviewed at Strategy & Resources Committee on an annual basis.
- 3.4** The Council Plan is not intended to capture all of the services the Council provides. The priorities and objectives are owned by the whole council and many of the key projects and activities are not solely the responsibility of one service, but a number of services. Other council wide strategies and service plans will capture in more detail the priorities of the services the council provides.
- 3.5** Members will have oversight of the delivery of the Council Plan through the governance and decision making arrangements for the council. For some key projects, other governance arrangements are in place for members to provide input and advice through Task and Finish Groups, Boards and Working Groups as outlined in the Delivery Plan.

4. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

- 4.1** The Council Plan is an integral element of the council's performance management framework (PMF). The Plan is the golden thread that links service, team and personal performance to the priorities of the organisation.
- 4.2** The commitments within the Council Plan will be reflected in service plans and progress in achieving the activities identified as part of the Council Plan will be monitored on an ongoing basis and progress will be reported quarterly to Strategy and Resources Committee.
- 4.3** Where other policy committees have direct responsibility for an objective or key project, it will be considered as part of their work programme and their performance monitoring process.
- 4.4** The council's performance management framework is currently under review to be adopted at November's Strategy & Resources Committee. The draft Council Plan sets out the priorities and what the council will do to achieve its objectives. If The Council Plan is agreed to be adopted, the revised council performance management framework will identify the performance indicators for each project or activity within the Delivery Plan.
- 4.5** Risks associated with each objective and key projects will be entered onto the relevant service or corporate risk register and elevated as appropriate. The corporate risk register is a living document regularly reviewed by the Strategic Leadership Team.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications from adopting the plan. It will be a key document as part of the Medium-Term Financial Planning process and resources will be allocated to projects as appropriate

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5.2 Legal Implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from the adoption of the Council Plan but legal advice and support will be available when implementing the projects and activities set out in the Council Plan and associated documents.

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5.3 Equality Implications

The Council's commitments to improving equality of opportunity and access, and reducing inequalities are expressed throughout the Council Plan.

Detailed equality implications relating to the key projects and activities outlined in the Council Plan will be assessed as necessary as part of the service planning processes. Equality impact assessments will be carried out for any services, projects or other schemes that have the potential to impact on communities and/or staff on the grounds of protected characteristics.

5.4 Environmental Implications

Environmental sustainability and carbon neutrality are key drivers of the Council Plan and are reinforced as a council priority. The Council Plan identifies how the council aims to tackle the declared Climate Emergency and protect and enhance the natural environment.