



Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes OBE, Chief Executive

Report to:	County Council
Date:	19 May 2023
Subject:	Refresh of the Corporate Plan

Summary:

This report asks the County Council to agree a refresh of the Corporate Plan 2019-2029.

Recommendation(s):

That the Council agree the refreshed Corporate Plan 2019-2029 as set out at Appendix A.

1. Background

- 1.1. Agreed in 2019 the Corporate Plan sets out the Council's aspirations for Lincolnshire over a ten-year period and how the County Council will deliver on these for residents, business and visitors. It is the primary document of the Council's policy framework to which all the Council's policies, strategies and plans should align.
- 1.2. It sets the framework for how we will create and grow the environment where our residents enjoy a long and successful life in a place that they are proud of. This is achieved by working together as one council to develop the relationships that we need to be successful and transform our services, building them around our customer expectations and needs.
- 1.3. Progress against the Corporate Plan is regularly reviewed by the Council's Executive and Scrutiny Committees. Good progress has been made in delivery of the Corporate Plan. As we work through the life of the Corporate Plan it is recognised that additional or different actions will be required during the life of the Plan to build on progress and to keep the Plan relevant to changing context and challenges.
- 1.4. Lincolnshire and the UK has experienced significant change since the Corporate Plan was adopted and it is proposed that the Plan should now be refreshed to reflect:
 - Progress delivering the plan since 2019

- Changes in the Council's operating environments including local priorities, funding and changes in national policy
- Changing lifestyles, needs and public service recovery from the coronavirus pandemic
- Further actions to deliver on the Council's ambitions for Lincolnshire's Residents.

1.5. The proposed refresh of the Corporate Plan is attached at Appendix A to the report and includes:

- Retention of the four headline priorities of high aspirations, living life to the full, thriving environments and good value services
- A summary of the outcomes being sought, progress to date and updated actions within each headline priority
- Updated statistics to reflect progress and our changing environment. Some movement of actions between priorities to ensure best fit.

1.6. To support delivery of the Council's ambitions a revised success framework will be developed, aligned to the refreshed Corporate Plan.

2. Legal Issues:

Equality Act 2010

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice, and promote understanding.

Compliance with the duties in section 149 may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.

The duty cannot be delegated and must be discharged by the decision-maker. To discharge the statutory duty the decision-maker must analyse all the relevant material with the specific statutory obligations in mind. If a risk of adverse impact is identified consideration must be given to measures to avoid that impact as part of the decision-making process.

An Equality Impact Analysis was undertaken and informed the development of the Corporate Plan and has been considered in the refresh of the Plan. The Analysis identified a number of areas where the contents of the Plan could be expected to impact positively on people with a protected characteristic. No negative impacts were identified as the Plan sets out the guiding vision and strategic ambitions of the Council. Specific initiatives designed to further that vision and those ambitions will have due regard to the Council's equality duties.

The light refresh of the Corporate Plan has updated the strategic ambitions. Specific initiatives to further the refreshed ambitions will have due regard to the Council's equality duties.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS)

The Council must have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) in coming to a decision.

The contents of the draft Corporate Plan have had due regard to both the JSNA and the JHWS and contain ambitions for the health and wellbeing of the Council's area and residents.

Crime and Disorder

Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council must exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area and re-offending in its area.

Due regard has been had to crime and disorder matters and the refreshed Corporate Plan contains ambitions in relation to public protection.

3. Conclusion

Supporting the recommendation will ensure that the Corporate Plan is updated to reflect successful delivery and the actions necessary to deliver further benefits for Lincolnshire residents over the remainder of the ten-year lifetime of the Plan.

4. Legal Comments:

The Council's Corporate Plan, agreed in 2019, sets out its aspirations for Lincolnshire over a ten year period on how it will deliver for residents, business and visitors. It forms part of the Policy Framework for which approval is reserved to the full Council. The Reports seeks approval to update the Corporate Plan to reflect the progress that has been made since its inception and to further deliver the Council's ambitions for its residents.

The recommendations are lawful and within the remit of the full Council.

5. Resource Comments:

The recommendations within this report, should have no direct material impact on the approved budget of the Council.

The refresh of the Corporate Plan, will allow for better alignment with the council's financial strategy, and ensure future budgets reflect the council's aspirations for Lincolnshire.

6. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

c) Scrutiny Comments

The refreshed Corporate Plan was reviewed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board at its meeting on 27 April 2023. Comments from the discussion are included in the notes of the meeting and have been considered in the preparation of this report.

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not Applicable

7. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Refreshed Corporate Plan

8. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
2050 Vision for Greater Lincolnshire	https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/
2021 Conservative Manifesto	https://www.conservativelincs.org.uk/
The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill	https://bills.parliament.uk/

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