



Northumberland

County Council

COUNCIL

DATE: 23RD FEBRUARY 2022

Corporate Plan Refresh 2021-24

Report Author: Philip Hunter, Interim Senior Service Director

Cabinet Member: Cllr Glen Sanderson, Leader of Council

Purpose of report

1. This Report presents the Council's Corporate Plan for 2021-2024, agreed by Cabinet on 18th November 2021. The Plan builds on the progress from the previous Corporate Plan and presents a refreshed vision, aims and priorities. This refresh takes account of the changing social and economic context as a result of the Covid Pandemic and the Council's priorities for leading recovery across the County in the coming months and years. The priorities in the Corporate Plan will be delivered through the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan, Service Planning and Performance Frameworks.

Recommendations

2. Council is recommended to:
 - Note the refreshed Corporate Plan 2021-24 as agreed by Cabinet on 18th November 2021 to set strategic policy direction across the Council's Services and functions.

Link to Corporate Plan

3. This Report is relevant to the following priorities in the Corporate Plan:

- **Thriving** - We will vigorously secure more and new investment and good quality jobs into the county
- **Living** - We will care for our residents, support the most vulnerable in our society and help people to live healthy lives
- **Learning** - We will ensure the best education standards for our children and young people
- **Enjoying** - We will maintain, protect and enhance the environment, prioritising our commitments on Climate Change
- **Connecting** - We will deliver high-quality services in all our communities and secure investment in housing and transport across the County
- **How** - In everything we do, we will listen to and communicate with residents, businesses and partners and, ensure value for money in our services. We will pull our weight regionally and nationally, working with our partners to secure maximum benefit for residents and businesses.

Key issues

4. The Council's Corporate Plan 2018-21 was adopted in February 2018 and updated in April 2020. It covered the period up to 2021 alongside the Medium-Term Financial Plan for 2018-22. Following the local elections in May 2021, the Corporate Plan was refreshed to take account of the changing circumstances from Covid and the Council's ambition to drive social and economic recovery across the County. The refreshed Corporate Plan is set out at Appendix A. The vision and key themes of the Corporate Plan have been updated and refreshed as follows:

Vision

5. "Our overarching priority, as we recover from the Covid pandemic is to do all we can to ensure Northumberland is a stronger place both economically and socially. We will invest in, and encourage business, attract new job opportunities, care for those who need our support, and build upon those things that were important and valued by many residents during the pandemic.
 - We will vigorously secure more and new investment and good quality jobs into the county.
 - We will care for our residents, support the most vulnerable in our society and help people to live healthy lives.
 - We will ensure the best education standards for our children and young people.
 - We will maintain, protect and enhance the environment, prioritising our commitments on Climate Change.
 - We will deliver high-quality services in all our communities and secure investment in housing and transport across the County

- We will pull our weight regionally and nationally, working with our partners to secure maximum benefit for residents and businesses.
- In everything we do, we will listen to and communicate with residents, businesses and partners and, ensure value for money in our services.”

Priority Themes

- **Thriving** - We will vigorously secure more and new investment and good quality jobs into the county
 - **Living** - We will care for our residents, support the most vulnerable in our society and help people to live healthy lives
 - **Learning** - We will ensure the best education standards for our children and young people
 - **Enjoying** - We will maintain, protect and enhance the environment, prioritising our commitments on Climate Change
 - **Connecting** - We will deliver high-quality services in all our communities and secure investment in housing and transport across the County
 - **How** - In everything we do, we will listen to and communicate with residents, businesses and partners and, ensure value for money in our services. We will pull our weight regionally and nationally, working with our partners to secure maximum benefit for residents and businesses.
6. Specific, targeted and measurable priorities and actions are set out in the plan under each of these priority themes. A key cross-cutting theme in the Corporate Plan is tackling health inequalities that exist in communities. The Council is committed to harnessing all of its services and functions to address the factors which have the greatest influence on health and wellbeing, including housing, employment, education, access to leisure and environment.
7. The Council’s values – how we do things - remain unchanged from the last Corporate Plan:
- Residents first
 - Excellence and quality
 - Respect
 - Keeping our communities safe and well

From the Corporate Plan to Service Delivery

8. Each service prepares a Service Plan annually setting out how it contributes to delivering the Council’s Corporate Plan. The Corporate Performance framework identifies key measures of performance, current performance levels and targeted

performance levels so that we can measure progress against the Corporate Plan priorities.

9. Measures of Corporate Performance are reviewed quarterly and at the end of the year and are presented in the Council's performance management reporting which is regularly updated with current performance so that the information is readily accessible to members, managers, staff, the public, partners and other stakeholders.
10. The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan sets the financial context for how the Council's Corporate Plan will be delivered.

Implications

Policy	Together with the MTFP, the Corporate Plan sets strategic policy direction across the Council's Services and functions.
Finance and value for money	Whilst the Corporate Plan and this Report contain no direct financial implications, the delivery of the individual priorities will have financial implications. Any financial implications will be subject of separate reports in relation to specific priorities at the appropriate time.
Legal	Whilst the Corporate Plan and this Report contain no immediate legal implications, the delivery of the individual priorities may have legal implications. Any legal implications arising from the delivery of specific priorities will be brought forward in future reports.
Procurement	NCC Procurement policy and guidance will be applied appropriately in the delivery of the Corporate Plan Priorities.
Human Resources	The Corporate Plan contains a priority to Build a future workforce, responding to the challenges and opportunities of Covid recovery across the county through delivery of our HR / OD People Strategy.
Property	The Corporate Plan contains a priority to ensure the Council makes the best use of its land and buildings by refreshing our Plan for estates and assets.
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached)	The Corporate Plan is focused on driving social and economic recovery and tackling health inequalities across the County. It contains numerous priorities which will have a potentially positive impact on equalities.

Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	Where changes to services are required to implement the Corporate Plan priorities, these will be subject of Equalities Impacts Assessments.
Risk Assessment	None at this stage
Crime Disorder &	The Corporate Plan contains the following priorities in related to crime & disorder: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support providers to develop effective approaches and champion good practice in tackling sexual violence, harassment and prejudice-based hate; - Develop and deliver the Domestic Violence Strategy including achievement of the White Ribbon accreditation programme and delivery of a zero-tolerance campaign - Ensure our communities remain safe places for everyone to enjoy and tackle hotspots for crime and fear of crime
Customer Consideration	The Corporate Plan contains a priority to significantly improve our customers' experience when they contact and transact with the Council.
Carbon reduction	The Corporate Plan contains an aim to maintain and enhance our environment and to address climate change. Work is being taken forward to assess and mitigate the potential carbon impacts arising from deliver of all Corporate Plan priorities.
Health and Wellbeing	A key cross-cutting theme in the Corporate Plan is tackling health inequalities that exist in communities. The Council is committed to harnessing all of its services and functions to address the factors which have the greatest influence on health and wellbeing, including housing, employment, education, access to leisure and environment.
Wards	All

Background papers:

Report sign off.

Authors must ensure that officers and members have agreed the content of the report:

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	Suki Binjal

Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	Jan Willis
Relevant Executive Director	All
Chief Executive	Daljit Lally
Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr Glen Sanderson, Council Leader

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