

Report to:	Scrutiny and Overview Committee	18 January 2024
Lead Cabinet Member:	Cllr Bridget Smith (Leader)	
Lead Officer:	Anne Ainsworth (Chief Operating Officer)	
Key Decision:	No	

Draft 2024-25 Business Plan Action Plan

Executive Summary

1. The Council agreed four key priorities during the development of its 2020-25 Business Plan. Beneath these sits an Action Plan detailing the objectives the Council will seek to deliver under each of the four priority areas.
2. It was agreed that the Business Plan Action Plan would be reviewed annually to ensure that priorities continue to deliver the outcomes needed for local people. When developing the latest updates, the four priority areas have remained unchanged, but a review has been undertaken of the Action Plan.
3. The updates that have been made reflect work that has been ongoing throughout 2023-24, the continuing evolution of Council priorities, and planned works coming forward from service areas. The updated version of the plan for 2024-25 is intended to provide clear priorities that will make sure we can easily track progress and delivery of the agreed actions and priorities.
4. The plan presented to Scrutiny is in draft format and will continue to develop before a final version is presented to Cabinet and Council meetings in February 2024.

Recommendations

5. It is recommended that Scrutiny and Overview Committee consider the draft Business Plan Action Plan for 2024-25 (**Appendix A**) and recommend any changes or additions that may be required.

Details

6. Each of the four priority areas at **Appendix A** contain a number of objectives, outputs for delivery in 2024-25 and longer-term outcomes that the Council is seeking to progress.
7. A selection of output achievements from the 2023-24 financial year so far are detailed under each of the four priority headings.
8. In addition, progress is being made relating to the inclusion of outcome information for each of the Business Plan outputs. For objectives where this has not yet been provided, work will continue to explore the availability of information, for inclusion prior to presentation at Cabinet and Council.

Reasons for Recommendations

9. The business plan action plan outlines clear and measurable objectives, outcomes and outputs for delivery in 2024-25 and beyond. It is used to ensure officers and financial resources are allocated appropriately.

Implications

10. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:-

The Business Plan Action Plan is used to ensure officer and financial resources are allocated appropriately. It is also closely related to and reflects a number of key strategy documents and aims, such as the Council's Equality Scheme, Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan, Local Plan, Housing and Asset Management strategies, Medium Term Financial Strategy and others.

Consideration of this broad range of policy areas is evident throughout **Appendix A**.

11. The contents of the business plan action plan also reflects a range of strategic risks to the Council. For example, generating income and ensuring best use of Council resources; attracting, retaining and developing the best talent; working with partners to address water scarcity in the region; and compliance with landlord safety checks, are just a few of the many objectives within the draft business plan action plan that directly relate to risks within the Council's Strategic Risk Log.

Consultation responses

12. A detailed public engagement exercise was carried out in 2019 to develop the four key priority areas within the business plan. These four areas remain unchanged.

Alignment with Council Priority Areas

13. This report does not change any of the Council's four priority areas but establishes clear priorities falling within each of these for coming financial year.

Background Papers

[2023-24 Business Plan Action Plan \(scams.gov.uk\)](https://scams.gov.uk)

Appendices

Appendix A: Draft 2024-25 Business Plan Action Plan

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