

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Corporate Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel
MEETING:	13th January 2020
TITLE:	Draft B&NES Corporate Strategy 2020-2024
WARD:	All
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report: Appendix One – Draft B&NES Corporate Strategy 2020-2024	

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 This report sets out the current position on the Council's draft Corporate Strategy to the Panel for consideration and feedback.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is asked to;

- 2.1 Identify any areas of specific feedback that the panel wishes to highlight relating to the draft Corporate Strategy set out in Appendix One; and
- 2.2 Note the next steps for the Corporate Strategy

3 THE REPORT

Background and engagement to date

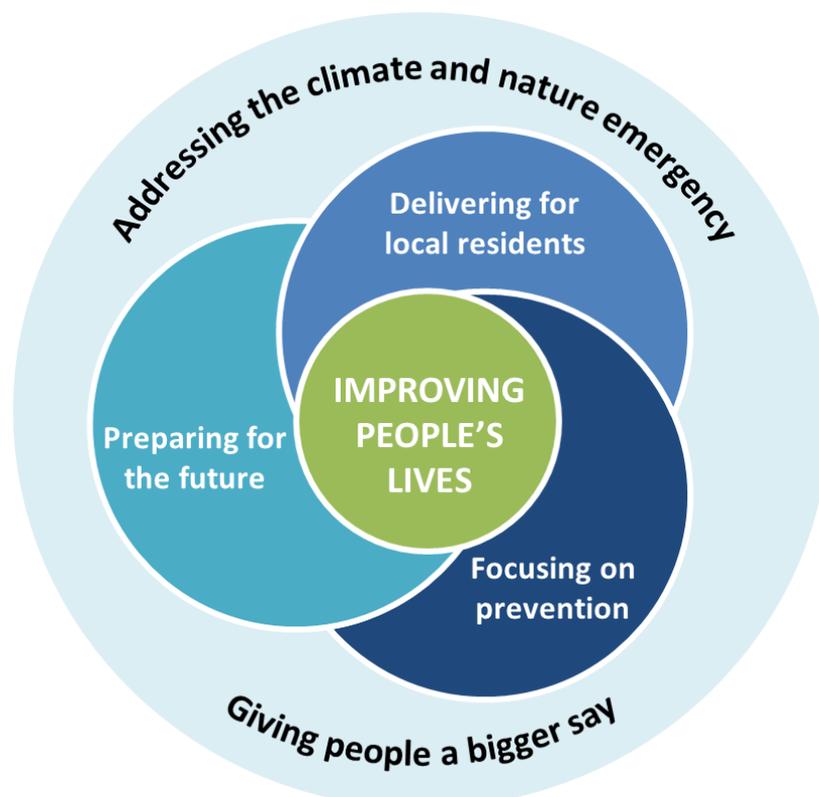
- 3.1 The Corporate Strategy is the council's overarching strategic planning document. It sets out the council's core purpose, policy focus and key commitments as well as describing the organisation's approach to monitoring performance and managing its budget.
- 3.2 A range of initial engagements were carried out to inform the development of the draft Corporate Strategy, including presentations to Area Forums and to the Independent Equality Advisory Group. The strategy is built around the emerging themes reported previously to this Panel.
- 3.3 The current draft Corporate Strategy was outlined at two public events held in December 2019. Feedback gathered from these events will be fed into the process of developing the final strategy.
- 3.4 The draft Corporate Strategy is currently subject to an online consultation period which began on 20th December 2019 and runs until 24th January 2020. This is designed to collect comments from residents and interested stakeholders. Each

PDS Panel will also be engaged during January and asked to provide feedback on the draft Corporate Strategy within their panel remits. Further engagement will also take place through the Area Forums in January and early February.

- 3.5 A summary of the feedback collected during this period, including from the three Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel meetings in January, will be presented to Cabinet for consideration alongside the draft Corporate Strategy at its 13th February 2020 meeting.

The new Corporate Strategy Framework

- 3.6 The draft Corporate Strategy proposes a new framework for what the council will focus on and how it will work:
- (1) We have *one* overriding purpose – to improve people’s lives. This brings together everything we do, from cleaning the streets to caring for our older people. It is the foundation for our strategy, and we will ensure that it drives our commitments, spending and service delivery.
 - (2) We have *two* core policies – tackling the climate and nature emergency and giving people a bigger say. These will shape our work.
 - (3) To translate our purpose into commitments, we have identified *three* principles. We want to prepare for the future, deliver for local residents and focus on prevention



- 3.7 The strategy does not include the detail of everything the council must do. However, the commitments in this strategy will guide the council and they represent the step changes that local residents in B&NES will experience. Appendix One sets out the draft strategy in full.

- 3.8 Flowing from this and underpinning the delivery of the strategy, an annual delivery programme will set out how precisely the council plans to meet its commitments. This will be made available online and the council will have a clear process for reporting on progress, ensuring that it is transparent and accountable.
- 3.9 The Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels will have a key role in monitoring the delivery programme as well as carrying out their policy development role as the strategy is implemented.

Next steps

- 3.10 Cabinet will consider the feedback received during December and January and a final draft Corporate Strategy will be presented for consideration and agreement at Cabinet and Council in February 2020. The table below sets out the next steps:

January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20th December – 24th January: Draft Corporate Strategy published online with a request for comments and feedback • Various: Further engagement carried out through Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels, Area Forums and the Independent Equality Advisory Group in order to collect feedback on the draft Corporate Strategy
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3rd February: Corporate Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel report on draft budget proposals • 13th February: Cabinet meeting on Corporate Strategy and Budget • 25th February: Council meeting on Corporate Strategy and Budget

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The Corporate Strategy is the Council's overarching strategic plan and forms a key part of the Policy and Budget Framework in the council's constitution. It is an essential communication tool and provides a clear framework for officers and members to work within. It outlines the key priorities of the council and helps to guide activity and decision making.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 The Corporate Strategy outlines the council's key priorities over the next 4 years. This forms a key consideration in the allocation of council resources as part of the annual budget setting process and development of its Medium-Term Financial Strategy.
- 5.2 More detailed information on the council's specific budget proposals will be presented to the Corporate PDS Panel at its meeting on 3rd February 2020.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations will be undertaken, in compliance with the council's decision-making risk management guidance.

7 CLIMATE CHANGE

7.1 The draft Corporate Strategy establishes the climate and nature emergency as a core policy driver for the council – shaping everything the council do and how it delivers its services going forward. It is also reflected within the key commitments set out in the strategy. A report on the draft Corporate Strategy will be presented to the Climate Emergency and Sustainability PDS Panel on January 20th.

8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 None

9 CONSULTATION

9.1 The Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources have been consulted on the drafting of this report as well as the S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer.

9.2 As set out in this report, a range of engagement has been carried during the development of the draft Corporate Strategy. A report summarising the feedback gathered during this engagement will be presented to Cabinet in February 2020.

Contact person	Andy Thomas, Head of Strategy Engagement & Marketing, (01225 394322)
Background papers	Presentations to December budget events
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	