

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Council	
MEETING DATE:	25 February 2020	
TITLE:	Bath and North East Somerset Council Corporate Strategy 2020-2024	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appendix One: Draft B&NES Council Corporate Strategy 2020-2024• Appendix Two: Corporate Strategy Engagement Report• Appendix Three: Draft B&NES Council Corporate Delivery Programme 2020-2021		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The council's Corporate Strategy will guide council activity and budget planning over the next four years. As recommended by Cabinet following its meeting on 13th February 2020, this report now invites Council to adopt the Corporate Strategy and Corporate Delivery Programme as set out in Appendix One and Appendix Three.
- 1.2 Once adopted, the Corporate Strategy will become the overarching framework for council activities until 2024 and will frame our financial strategy over the same period.

2 RECOMMENDATION

Council is asked to;

- 2.1 Thank those who provided feedback on the draft Corporate Strategy and agree to continue to work with local communities to ensure their involvement during the strategy's implementation and review;
- 2.2 Note the responses and agree the recommendations and next steps following the feedback on the draft strategy, as set out in the Corporate Strategy Engagement Report in Appendix Two;
- 2.3 Note and consider the responses from the Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels also set out in the Corporate Strategy Engagement Report in Appendix Two;

- 2.4 Adopt the new Corporate Strategy 2020-2024, including the new Community Engagement Charter
- 2.5 Adopt the new Corporate Delivery Programme 2020-2021

3 THE REPORT

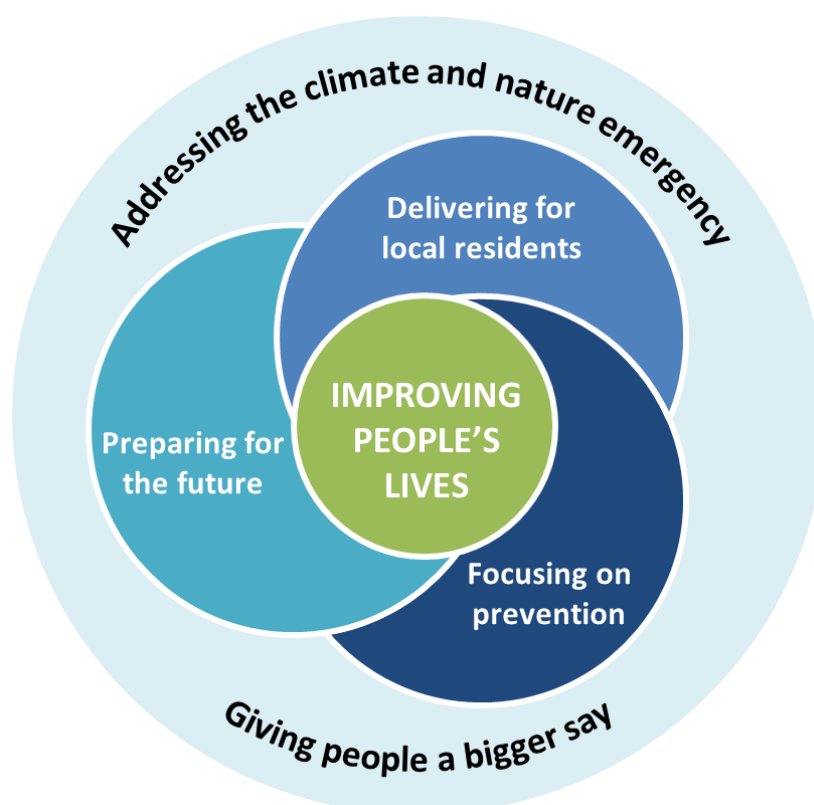
Background

- 3.1 This report sets out a new Corporate Strategy for the council, running from 2020-2024. Once adopted, the Corporate Strategy will be 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 The strategy does not set out in detail everything the council does, much of which – such as equalities, safeguarding and emergency planning - is determined by national legislation. However, the detailed proposals in the strategy will guide the council over the life of the strategy and represent the step changes that citizens in B&NES will experience from their council.
- 3.3 Flowing from this and underpinning the delivery of the strategy, an annual corporate delivery programme has been developed which sets out how precisely the council plans to meet its commitments, allowing for transparent and accountable progress reporting. A Cabinet sponsor will also be identified for each section of the delivery programme to help ensure clear lines of political accountability. The draft Corporate Delivery Programme for 2020-21 is set out in Appendix Three.

The new Corporate Strategy Framework

- 3.4 The draft Corporate Strategy is set out in full in Appendix One. It 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



Engagement on the Corporate Strategy

- 3.5 Initial engagements took place in Summer 2019 to inform the development of the council's new Corporate Strategy. These included presentations to the Area Forums, Independent Equality Advisory Group and Corporate Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel on the emerging themes.
- 3.6 Following this, the key themes of the new draft Corporate Strategy were outlined at two public events. The full draft document was also published online for further comments from residents and interested stakeholders from 20th December 2019 until 24th January 2020. During this time, the draft Corporate Strategy was also shared at Area Forums and with the Independent Equality Advisory Group as well as presented to each of the three Policy Development and Scrutiny Panels for comment.
- 3.7 A report on the feedback collected during this period is attached at Appendix Two for consideration alongside the draft Corporate Strategy. Broadly, the commitments set out in the strategy were welcomed by respondents. Some common feedback themes also included:
- Requests for further detail on key commitments, particularly relating to transport, housing and addressing the climate and nature emergency
 - Concerns over the pressures around social care funding and the need to develop a sustainable approach to funding
 - How the council will communicate and engage residents on its commitments particularly the climate and nature emergency

- Making the best use of local resources and strengths as well as many invitations from respondents to work with and support the council on its strategy

3.8 As a result, much of this feedback will assist the council as it implements the Corporate Strategy and refines its programme of delivery. The engagement report sets out in more detail how the council intends to do this. Where appropriate, a number of amendments to the document itself have also been made to respond to key feedback issues raised, for example in further strengthening our approach to prevention.

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 considered at this meeting as a separate item.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been 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 does and how it delivers its services going forward. It is also reflected within the key commitments set out in the strategy. Feedback on the draft Corporate Strategy contained a number of comments relating to this, particularly in relation to ecological and nature issues.

8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 None

9 CONSULTATION

9.1 Cabinet agreed at its meeting on 13th February 2020 to recommend to Council that it adopts the Corporate Strategy and Corporate Delivery Programme.

9.2 As set out in this report, a range of engagement has been carried out during the development of the draft Corporate Strategy. A report summarising the feedback gathered during this engagement is presented as an Appendix to this report.

Contact person	Andy Thomas, Head of Strategy Engagement & Marketing, (01225 394322)
Background papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corporate Strategy presentation to December public events• Corporate Strategy Equality Impact Assessment• 13th February 2020 Cabinet Report on the B&NES Council Corporate Strategy 2020-2024
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