

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Cabinet	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	5th May 2022	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E3360
TITLE:	Update on progress on delivering the Corporate Strategy 2020-2024 and our COVID-19 Response	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Annex 1 Corporate Strategy 2020-2024 - End of Year Review		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 This report updates the Cabinet on progress made in delivering our Corporate Strategy 2020-24 and on our response to the pandemic in 2020-21.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to:

- 2.1 Note the progress in delivering the Corporate Strategy in 2021/22 and also the Council's response to the pandemic during that period.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 Full Council adopted a new four-year Corporate Strategy at its meeting on 25th February 2020. The document set a new direction for the Council, reflecting the aims of the administration elected in May 2019 and providing a clear approach to the Council's activities and priorities. It was updated in the light of the pandemic, as set out in a report to Cabinet in July 2020.
- 3.2 The Corporate Strategy is the Council's overarching strategic plan. It sets out what we plan to do, how we plan to do it, and how we will measure performance over the next four years. The Corporate Strategy framework is set out below:

- 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 ecological 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 residents** and **focus on prevention**. These, in turn, help us to identify specific delivery commitments across our services.

3.3 This report brings together the work undertaken to deliver the Corporate Strategy in 2021/22, as well as the key elements of our pandemic response in that period. It follows reports to Council on 16th June 2020 (COVID – update report and position statement) and to Cabinet on 22nd July 2020 (Update on Corporate Strategy Progress and issues) as well as the report to Cabinet on 20th May 2021 (Corporate Strategy and COVID Response update) which included the Corporate Strategy End of Year Review for 2020/21.

3.4 Despite the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, which placed significant pressures on the council, our communities, local businesses and partner organisation, good progress was made in delivering the Corporate Strategy in 2020-21. More details are set out in Annex 1, but a “snapshot” of progress is set out below:

Consulted with residents about new liveable neighbourhoods' schemes	Over 35,000 trees planted on Council and private land since 2020	Investing in 58 new council homes to help ease the housing crisis
Allocated more than £38m over the next 5 years to drive down carbon emissions	3,100 new homes, including 700 affordable homes, built in our area in the last 3 years	Recruiting more foster carers to give our children and young people the best start in life
Investing over £900k in cleaner, greener neighbourhoods	66% reduction in carbon emissions from Council buildings since 2010	Developing 6 new Residents' Parking Zones
17,894 calls received by the Community Wellbeing Hub from residents requiring support	Investing £14m to maintain and improve our highways	Building a new state of the art recycling hub to help boost our 60% recycling rate

3.5 The Council's key pandemic response is also outlined in Annex 1. The council- including staff volunteers- played an important role in supporting the NHS's roll-out of the vaccine, as well as providing a comprehensive local pandemic response through the delivery of its Local Outbreak Management Plan. The Community Wellbeing Hub, a collaboration between Bath & North East Somerset Council, HCRG Care Group (formerly Virgin Care) and wide range of partner and third sector organisations, continued to provide support for local people. 3SG (Third Sector Group) also played a crucial role in mobilising volunteer support for the Hub and for the vaccine roll-out.

The following is a summary of the outcomes achieved to 31st March 2022 by the Community Wellbeing Hub, since it opened on 23rd March 2020,

17,894 calls received to date from residents requiring support	Over 2,000 volunteers* supported the Hub's Covid-19 response by providing shopping and medication support
830 emergency food parcels delivered between March 2020 and March 2022, providing support to 1,166 individuals	35,000 two course meals distributed to local charities and organisations to support food insecurity (donated by Masonic Hall Trust)
16,424 referrals to partner organisations during 2020 and 2021	400 HELP packs to patients discharged from hospital to ease their transition back home

*The volunteer service stood down in June 2021.

3.6 The Council has also delivered Covid-related Business Support Grants to support our local economy during this extremely challenging period. We processed and administered 12 different grant schemes, and provided more than £90m of grants to over 4,200 businesses and individuals with over 21,000 separate payments made.

3.7 A full breakdown of key activity is shown in Annex 1 to this report

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

The Council has a wide range of powers which allow it to deliver the Corporate Strategy adopted in February 2020. It should be noted however that the government has introduced an extensive range of new legislation, regulations and guidance during the last 3 years, which may influence how certain aspects of the Strategy are delivered. It was subject to a full Equalities Impact Assessment, and it is important that equalities are actively pursued as we implement the strategy.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 A full report on the Council's approach to financial recovery from the pandemic was presented to Cabinet on 2nd July 2020.
- 5.2 The Council's financial planning and budget setting process is the key resource mechanism for delivering the Corporate Strategy, Council agreed the resourcing requirements for the 2021/22 at its Budget meeting in February 2021.

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 Climate Emergency Annual Report was presented to Council in March 2022 on our progress in tackling the climate and ecological emergency. The current report provides an opportunity to re-emphasise how these commitments are reflected as "core policies" in delivering the Corporate Strategy.
- 7.2 Monitoring the effectiveness of delivering on Climate Change is one of the key components of the strategic report. Indicators are being developed to allow further monitoring against the Council target.

8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 None

9 CONSULTATION

- 9.1 This report has been cleared by the S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer.

Contact person	Steve Harman, Head of Corporate Governance & Business Insight Andy Thomas, Head of Strategy, Engagement and Marketing
Background papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corporate Strategy 2020 – 2024• Update on Progress against the Corporate Strategy 2020-2024 and COVID-19 Response (May 2021)•
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	