

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING / DECISION MAKER:	Cabinet	
MEETING / DECISION DATE:	13th July 2023	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E3462
TITLE:	Update on progress on delivering the Corporate Strategy 2020-2024 and Annual Performance Report 2022-2023	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Annex 1 Corporate Strategy 2020-2024 - End of Year Review Annex 2 Council Activity 2022-2023 Report		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 This report updates Cabinet on the progress made in delivering our Corporate Strategy 2020-24 and our performance in 2022-23.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to:

- 2.1 Note the progress in delivering the Corporate Strategy and the highlights of Council performance and activity during 2022-23.

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.
- 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.

Work has now started on a refresh to the Corporate Strategy and an update report is also on the agenda of the Cabinet meeting today.

This report brings together the work undertaken to deliver the Corporate Strategy in 2022/23, as well as the key elements of Council performance during this period.

- 3.3 Despite the challenges of still recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic, which placed significant pressures on the Council, our communities, local businesses and partner organisations, good progress was made in delivering the Corporate Strategy last year. A snapshot of achievements is set out below with a more detailed account in Annex 1:



The Council has also published its response to the COVID pandemic and extracts of this report are shown in Annex 1.

The Council has been guiding local communities on how to live safely with COVID. **The B&NES Living Safely and Fairly with COVID-19 Plan** sets out a framework for how individuals, employers and institutions can collectively prevent, protect and respond to COVID-19 in the coming years.

The plan is part of the Council's overall response to emergencies and does not replace the existing Major Incident Plan. Its aim is to harness the capacity of the Council, working with communities and partners, to enable residents of Bath and North East Somerset to live safely and fairly with COVID-19, while retaining resilience and capabilities to respond to new variants, outbreaks, and any resurgence of COVID-19.

3.4 The Council has also continued to deliver its wide range of services and an activity analysis of some of the key services are shown in Annex 2, some of the highlights include:

- The number of looked after children has risen to 231, a 20% increase from 2019.
- The number of children on a child protection plan has increased by 53% since 2019 to 139.
- Over 1,900 planning applications were decided during 2022/23
- The number of fly tipping instances cleared has risen to over 1,700, an increase of over 350 since 2019
- Over 335 kg of residual waste per household was collected
- Over 400,000 visitors visited the Bath Christmas market after a two-year suspension because of COVID.

A full breakdown of key activity is shown in Annex 2.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 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.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

5.1 A full report on the Council's approach to financial recovery from the COVID 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 2022/23 at its Budget meeting in February 2022.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 A risk assessment related to the issues 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’s target.

8 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

8.1 None

9 CONSULTATION

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

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Background papers	Corporate Strategy 2020-2024
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	