

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

26 July 2023

Corporate priorities plan

FOR DECISION

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Rennie

Key Decision: No

Report number: HBC/024/2023

1. Purpose

- a. This paper is submitted Cabinet for decision on approving the corporate priorities plan that will help to deliver the ambitions set out in the Corporate Strategy.

2. Recommendation

- a. Members are requested to approve the corporate priorities plan.

3. Executive Summary

- a. Havant Borough Council must have a Corporate Strategy document in place which sets out the ambitions and proposed approach to delivery of the functions of the Council.
- b. Any matters falling outside of the policy framework or the budget framework will require approval at Full Council. It is therefore important that the Corporate Strategy covers all the proposed endeavours that the Council wishes to undertake through the executive function of Cabinet over the next few years.
- c. The Corporate Strategy was approved by Full Council in February 2023 and that document articulates at a high level what the Council aims to provide for residents and businesses in the borough.

- d. Following approval of the Corporate Strategy more detailed work has taken place on providing the detail of what corporate priorities will be delivered over the coming year; in particular the specific projects and programmes that the Council will progress.
- e. A total of 16 corporate priorities have been identified for delivery and these are fully articulated within the corporate priorities plan (Appendix A). Each corporate priority has been mapped against a corporate strategy theme, aim and initiative to ensure that it will deliver against the Corporate Strategy.
- f. Corporate priorities will be reported quarterly to Cabinet for monitoring purposes and will be tracked throughout the year in terms of milestones being completed.

4. Additional Budgetary Implications

- a. None associated with this report.

5. Background and relationship to Corporate Strategy and supporting strategies and policies

- a. The corporate priorities have a direct relationship with the Corporate Strategy in that they articulate at a more detailed level exactly what will be delivered over the coming year.
- b. Each priority details the objective of what the priority is trying to achieve, the actions that will take place and the measurable output of that priority. Each priority is also assigned to the relevant Executive Head to ensure accountability for delivery.
- c. It is acknowledged that there are still a number of other important activities that the authority is continuing to progress and these are being taken forward by individual service areas. The corporate priorities plan is not intended to capture all work of the authority but of

the key projects and programmes that will help to deliver the Corporate Strategy.

6. Options considered

- a. The purpose of producing the corporate priorities plan is to ensure that officers and Members are fully aware of the priorities of the Council that will be delivered. Without the plan there is the risk that officer and Member resource will be diverted to responding to events and hence not necessarily progressing the plans that will help to deliver the Corporate Strategy.

7. Resource implications

a. Financial implications

- i. The corporate priorities plan makes no budgetary commitments but does inform the budgetary framework. Whereas some of the initiatives and associated projects will be delivered through existing revenue budgets others will require the identification and approval of relevant funding through a combination of external grants, council reserves, the strategic element of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and potential borrowing. Funding allocations will be determined through the consideration and approval of relevant business cases and/or the next revenue/capital budget round.

Section 151 Officer comments

Whilst there is no immediate financial impact from the corporate priorities, the priorities set will have some major financial impacts and requirements. Therefore, it is vital that the authority sets clear priorities as this will impact the ease, pace and ability to make funding/spending decisions for all major projects. Any requests for spending/budget that does not relate to these agreed priorities will face additional hurdles in governance processes and faces a much higher likelihood of not being approved.

The priorities also set a clear direction for the allocation of resources and officer time. Having a robust set of agreed priorities will help to focus resources and avoid unnecessary expenditure caused by uncertainty and working on non-priority areas

b. Human resources implications

- i. None

c. Information governance implications

- i. None

d. Climate and environment implications

- i. One of our key strategies supporting our Corporate Strategy is our Climate Change and Environment Strategy which was adopted in 2021. The Climate Change and Environment Strategy is supported by a separate action plan which will help deliver that strategy. In addition, one of the 16 priorities identified in the corporate plan is one specifically covering our climate action plan progression, water quality considerations and nutrient neutrality work.

e. Other resources implications

- i. The corporate priorities plan does not specifically commit resources in itself but does provide the framework for the

allocation of resources across services. The nature of the priorities and links with the Corporate Strategy have meant that resources are focussed around our wellbeing (communities), place and growth (regeneration) aspirations.

8. Legal implications

- a. Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework, published by CIPFA, sets the standard for local authority governance in the UK.
- b. The concept underpinning the Framework is that it is helping local government in taking responsibility for developing and shaping an informed approach to governance, aimed at achieving the highest standards in a measured and proportionate way. The Framework is intended to assist authorities individually in reviewing and accounting for their own unique approach. The overall aim is to ensure that:
 - i. resources are directed in accordance with agreed policy and according to priorities
 - ii. there is sound and inclusive decision making
 - iii. there is clear accountability for the use of those resources in order to achieve desired outcomes for service users and communities.
- c. The Corporate Strategy is a key document. It sets out the Council's ambitions and proposed approach to delivery of the functions of the Council. The corporate priorities plan provides further detail on how the council shall direct resources in accordance with agreed policy and priorities.
- d. There are no direct legal implications arising from the plan. Legal advice and assistance will be provided on key projects as and when required.

Monitoring Officer comments

The Corporate Strategy and priorities plan are essential requirements in setting out the Council's overarching strategic framework and priorities. Constitutionally, it is a matter for determination by Cabinet.

9. Risks and mitigations

- a. The Council is looking towards a new and vibrant active future to meet the challenges around development, regeneration, the green agenda, business growth and the health and wellbeing of our communities. The corporate priorities sets out the immediate plans which the Cabinet will be focussed on delivering. Without a clear plan there are risks around delivery.
- b. During the year it is likely that new priorities may surface dependent on events and circumstances. These new priorities will need to be considered against the existing priorities as decisions will likely need to be made around resources in order to deliver, otherwise there is a risk that additional priorities are added to the existing list.

10. Consultation

- a. The corporate priorities plan has been prepared in consultation with the Leader and Cabinet. Staff have also been involved in the development and priorities will form part of staff objectives.

11. Communications

- a. Quarterly monitoring of the performance against the strategy and hence the corporate priorities will be routinely reported to Councillors and published on the website. As stated, the document will also be used to set organisational objectives as part of annual planning.

12. Appendices

- a. Appendix A - Corporate priorities plan

13. Background papers

- a. [Corporate Strategy 2022-2026](#)

Agreed and signed off by:

Cabinet Lead: Cllr Rennie 13/07/23

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