

Report to Cabinet

26 September 2019

By the Leader

DECISION REQUIRED

20



**Horsham
District
Council**

Not Exempt

Corporate Plan 2019-2023

Executive Summary

Each Council sets a Corporate Plan as its key policy document outlining its priorities for its term. The Leader and Cabinet have spent their first few months of the Council term working with colleagues and other political parties to ensure this plan focusses on the priorities of our communities and ensures we have a flexible and efficient organisation. This report introduces the draft plan and recommends its referral to Council for adoption.

Recommendations

That Cabinet is recommended to agree the draft Corporate Plan and refer it to Council for adoption.

Reasons for Recommendations

To ensure that Corporate Priorities for Council period are clear and form the basis of service plans, budget and activity across the Council.

Background Papers

None

Wards affected:

All

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Background Information

1 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The last Corporate Plan was agreed by Council on 24 February 2016. It came to its end with the District Council election 2 May 2019.
- 1.2 In the last few months Cabinet members have developed the new Corporate Plan through discussions with officers and by seeking comment from all Councillors. The plan has been issued to Parishes and the Horsham Neighbourhood Forums to enable them to join the conversation.
- 1.3 The Corporate Plan sets the direction for the Council for its current term of office. The 2019/20 budget and service plans, which support the Corporate Plan, are already in development.
- 1.4 The draft Corporate Plan is attached at appendix 1. Our priorities are grouped under five headings:
 - A great place to live
 - A thriving economy
 - A strong, safe and healthy community
 - A cared for environment
 - A modern and flexible Council.

2 Relevant Council policy

- 2.1 Once adopted the Corporate Plan becomes the Council's core policy for its current term. All service plans, projects, budgets and strategies will support this Plan.

3 Next Steps

- 3.1 If Cabinet agrees the priorities they will be recommended to Council on 16 October. They will be used as the basis for the 2020/21 financial strategy, budget and service planning.

4 Outcome of Consultations

- 4.1 All political groups and the independents were asked for their views on the draft plan and their ideas built in wherever possible.
- 4.2 The Senior Leadership Team, all Heads of Service have put ideas into the plan and the Monitoring Officer and the Director of Corporate Resources have checked it to ensure legal and financial probity.
- 4.3 The Plan was sent in draft form to the Parishes and Neighbourhood Councils so they were aware of our thinking.

5 Other Courses of Action Considered but Rejected

- 5.1 None, operating without a Corporate Plan would mean the Council has no direction.

6 Resource Consequences

- 6.1 There are no financial implications in adopting this plan. However some of the projects arising from the plan will determine the shape of the Medium Term Financial Strategy, the budget and the Council as a whole.

7 Legal Consequences

- 7.1 The Council has a power of General Competence under the Localism Act 2011 and priorities in the draft plan take this into account.
- 7.2 The Corporate Plan is one of the policy framework documents listed in the constitution that has to be approved by Council. The current plan will be presented to Council in October.

8 Risk Assessment

- 8.1 The budget, medium term financial strategy, service plans and individual projects arising from this plan will be separately risk assessed.

9 Equalities

- 9.1 Impact analyses will be undertaken on specific projects/programmes where relevant.

10 Other Considerations

- 10.1 This plan contains an increased focus on safe communities and a cared for environment. This focus will create a positive impact on these areas of our area in the next three and a half years.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Corporate Plan 2019/20