

25 January 2023

Report of	Chief Operating Officer	Author	Gary Reid ☎ 07874984922
Title	Half Year covering April to September 2022 Performance Report - 2020-2023 Strategic Plan Action Plan		
Wards affected	All wards		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides details of progress in delivering against the Councils Strategic Plan for 2020-2023 at half year of 2022-2023.

2. Recommended Decisions

- 2.1 To confirm satisfactory delivery against the Strategic Plan Action Plan and that the Council has made satisfactory progress in meeting its strategic goals.

3. Reason for Recommended Decision

- 3.1 To ensure the Council has robust performance management of delivery against key strategic goals.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 No alternative options have been presented to Cabinet.

5. Background Information

- 5.1 The Council has agreed a new Strategic Plan covering 2020-2023. This report provides a review of progress against the Strategic Plan at the half year point 2022-2023.
- 5.2 Details of progress made in delivering against each aim is shown in the report at Appendix A.
- 5.3 Some key highlights from the first 6 months are detailed below:
- 5.4 **Tackling the climate challenge and leading sustainability** - The Colchester Woodland and Biodiversity Project will continue to develop in 22/23 by continuing to plant trees in suitable areas and by focusing on the naturalisation of sites, enhancing the biodiversity further, reviewing the management regimes and continue to communicate changes to our communities.
- 5.5. **Creating safe, healthy, and active communities** - Embedding Communities Can with the system, partners and communities including training and awareness, learning from best practice, capacity building and outcomes focus, enabling an Asset Based Community Development Approach, funding is being sourced for a dedicated post to sit in C360.
- 5.6 **Delivering homes for people who need them** - Colchester's new Housing Strategy 2022-25 was developed by the Council and its partner organisations and adopted by Cabinet in July. The Strategy sets out our ambition for housing over the next 5 years including increasing the supply of affordable homes that are energy efficient.
- 5.7 **Growing a better economy so everyone benefits** - Our bid for City Status was successful and we are engaging partners to agree how to capitalise on this. Working with Essex County Council and partners to develop a Masterplan for the Town Centre is well underway with strong engagement with partners and stakeholders. We are working with the Business Improvement District to support businesses through their Leisure Recovery Strategy and on projects such as to install new gateway signage to promote use of local town centre retail.
- 5.8 **Celebrating our heritage and culture** - The Shared Prosperity Fund will also support three projects to be delivered by Creative Colchester; business support for the cultural sector and creative industries in Colchester; a new monthly cultural offer in the City Centre bridging the gap between the day and night economies and a project working with local schools to encourage young residents to pursue careers in our local cultural industries.

6. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

- 6.1 Progress and improvement of these and many of the actions within the Strategic Plan Action Plan support our aims of improving both services and the lives of everyone in the borough. Where required, specific Equality Impact Assessments will exist for policies and activities rather than for individual performance indicators or actions. Progress on the Council's Equality Objectives are included within the Strategic Plan Action Plan Update.

7. Strategic Plan References

- 7.1 The Strategic Plan Action Plan demonstrates delivery of across all the current Strategic Plan priorities.

8. Consultation

- 8.1 The report's contents do not have any direct implications; however, the Strategic Plan and priorities were agreed using the results of significant research and taking into account previous public consultations.

9. Publicity Considerations

- 9.1 The performance report contains progress in delivering key goals of the Strategic Plan Action Plan and it is important that residents and businesses are made aware of these. Many of the achievements will have been publicised during the year but the report and related information will also be published on the Performance and Improvement section of the Council's website.

10. Financial implications

- 10.1 All achievements detailed in the Strategic Plan Action Plan were delivered from within existing approved budgets and as such, there are no new financial implications associated with this report.

11. Health, Wellbeing and Community Safety Implications

- 11.1 There are actions within the Strategic Plan Action Plan which aim to improve community safety and as such this report provides progress updates in this area.

12. Health and Safety Implications

- 12.1 There are no direct health and safety implications associated with this report.

13. Risk Management Implications

- 13.1 There are no direct risk management implications associated with this report.

14. Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 14.1 Tackling the Climate Challenge and leading sustainability is a key theme of the Strategic Plan and the report at appendix 1 provides details of the progress in delivering the associated goals.

Appendices

Appendix A – Strategic Plan Action Plan Half Year Report