



Cabinet

8 June 2022

Item
7(i)

Report of	Deputy Chief Executive	Author	Dan Gascoyne
Title	Cabinet Vision and Priorities for 2022/23		
Wards affected	All		

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The report sets out the Cabinet's vision for the 2022/23 municipal year and beyond.

2 Recommended Decision

- 2.1 That Cabinet agrees to work with our councillors, officers, residents, businesses and partners to help the Council tackle the biggest challenges facing Colchester, from sustainability and climate change to the cost-of-living crisis, homelessness, and inequalities.
- 2.2 That Cabinet agrees the priorities for the 2022/23 municipal year as set out in Section 4 of this report.

3 Reason for Recommended Decision

- 3.1 To review and confirm the Cabinet's priorities at the beginning of the new Municipal Year will provide greater confidence, direction and clarity for the benefit of residents and businesses, for Council officers and for partner organisations across Colchester and North Essex.
- 3.2 The complexity of the issues facing the borough requires significant analysis, modelling, engagement, review and testing to ensure that the scope, impact and benefits of the Council's actions are fully understood and deliverable. An early signal of priorities supports the ability of the organisation and its partners to begin this work.
- 3.3 This Cabinet will look to build on the strengths within our communities, businesses, and partnerships to tackle the challenges and opportunities facing Colchester together.

4 Background Information

- 4.1 The cost-of-living crisis needs an immediate response, from every level of Government, with partners and at pace. This Cabinet will prioritise support for those faced with terrible choices, between food or warmth or other essential needs, working with communities and through our community partners to build community wealth. This will include working with partners, strengthening the capacity of the Council's high performing welfare support team and leveraging resources to provide

targeted help for those in extreme difficulty, acknowledging rising demand for help and support for the most vulnerable.

- 4.2 City Status is an honour that will boost the economy in Colchester and North Essex. Everyone in Colchester deserves to feel the benefit. This administration will step-up partnership work with local businesses and the County Council to sustain and strengthen the town centre, working with the Business Improvement District and others to respond to the loss of iconic past brands.
- 4.3 In strengthening Colchester's heritage and cultural offer, the Cabinet will work to ensure Colchester remains an attractive destination, in which to invest, to work, live, shop and visit.
- 4.4 This year will bring forward initiatives to improve the quality of life of residents, in consultation with them, with partners and volunteers. From tree planting, increasing biodiversity and other uses of our open spaces, to opening-up Colchester's waterways, the Cabinet will lead a strategic approach to manage existing natural areas and to develop new places in which to enjoy nature and allow its recovery.
- 4.5 The Cabinet will act decisively on measures that help the Council tackle the climate emergency, easing the transition to net zero carbon and bringing forward new approaches to minimise waste, encourage recycling and support positive action that reduces littering and graffiti.
- 4.6 To find creative and effective new ways to bring forward affordable housing, the Cabinet will work with partners to enable essential physical and digital infrastructure and, with others, to tackle long standing challenges such as the flooding in the Hythe.
- 4.7 An ambitious programme of improvement to address these and other transformation and delivery priorities will ensure the Council is able to maintain its essential and award-winning services whilst continuing to improve efficiency and effectiveness.
- 4.8 This year the Cabinet will engage widely with others to co-design a new, ambitious, progressive and longer-term Strategic Plan for the whole Council from April 2023.

5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 None

6 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications

- 6.1 Consideration will be given to equality and diversity issues in respect of any decisions to implement the priorities set out in this report. This will be done in line with agreed policies and procedures including production of Equality Impact Assessments where appropriate.

7 Strategic Plan References

The priorities in this report support all the core themes of the 2020 – 23 Strategic Plan and help set a direction of travel for the preparation of a new Strategic Plan from April 2023 onwards.

8 Financial implications

- 8.1 The delivery of the priorities in this report will be managed within existing budgets during 2022/23. In July, Cabinet will agree a budget strategy for 2023/24, which will enable the Cabinet's medium and longer terms priorities to be delivered.
- 8.2 Early declaration by Cabinet of their most immediate priorities provides clarity to partner organisations to help guide their own funding decisions and support shared strategic objectives for the health, wellbeing and welfare of Colchester residents.
- 8.3 Full consideration will be given to the ongoing revenue implications of any measures needed to deliver these priorities and those considerations will be built into future reports for decisions to be taken by Cabinet.

9 Environmental and Climate Change Implications

- 9.1 As mentioned in this report.

10 Risk Management Implications

- 10.1 The recommendations in this report will help to mitigate the risks facing the Council in delivering its strategic priorities for the borough.

11 Other Standard References

- 11.1 There are no direct Publicity, Human Rights, Community Safety or Health and Safety implications as a result of this report.