

**14 December 2021**

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|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Report of</b>      | <b>Assistant Director – Corporate and Improvement</b>                                                                | <b>Author</b> | <b>Richard Block</b><br>☎ 506825 |
| <b>Title</b>          | <b>Half Year covering April 2021 to September 2021<br/>Performance Report - 2020-2023 Strategic Plan Action Plan</b> |               |                                  |
| <b>Wards affected</b> | All wards                                                                                                            |               |                                  |

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides details of progress in delivering against the Council's Strategic Plan for 2020-2023 at half year covering 2021-2022.

## 2. Action Required

- 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.
- 2.2 Where any areas of concern are identified, to make recommendations to Cabinet so these can be considered when this is considered in January 2022.

## 3. Reason for Scrutiny

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

## 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 covering half year 2021-2022.
- 5.2 Details of progress made in delivering against each aim is shown in the report at Appendix A. This shows that despite the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic, significant progress has been made in delivering against each of the themes of the Strategic Plan.
- 5.3 Some key highlights from the first 6 months are detailed below:
- 5.4 **Tackling the climate challenge and leading sustainability** - All Town and Parish Councils have been contacted and offered free trees and shrubs for planting on their land or for distribution to their residents – 15 have expressed an interest for over 7,000 trees.
- 5.5. **Creating safe, healthy, and active communities** - Work has commenced on constructing a new community centre at Stanway and facilities available to communities have been promoted through a range of methods reaching more than 15K customers / residents monthly.
- 5.6 **Delivering homes for people who need them** - The first new site developed by Amphora Homes site is now occupied, seeing the Council-owned companies first market sales and also delivering 2 affordable homes.
- 5.7 **Growing a better economy so everyone benefits** - The Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) Project has led to over £10m of private investment being secured from VX Fibre who have also started deploying ultrafast broadband across wards using our new network.
- 5.8 **Celebrating our heritage and culture** - The exhibition, 'Decoding the Roman Dead' opened in July at the Castle and is believed to have significantly contributed to the visitor numbers that exceeded pre-pandemic levels during the summer.

## 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 A provides details of the progress in delivering the associated goals.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A – Strategic Plan Action Plan Half Year Report