

For publication

Council Plan 2023 – 2027 Development

Meeting: Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum

Date: 26 January 2023

Cabinet portfolio: Deputy Leader

Report by: Service Director Corporate

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Purpose of reviewing the topic	To support the development of the Council Plan 2023 – 2027.
What are the objectives of the review?	To develop the Council Plan 2023 – 2027 which sets out the vision, priorities and key deliverables for the next four years
Progress to date	Evidence gathering, workshops and drafting of key documents.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 In 2015, following on from a recommendation during our Local Government Association peer challenge review, the Council moved to a four year Council Plan which aligned with the medium term financial forecast. This approach, again utilised for 2019 – 2023, has proved successful in targeting resources and collective effort on key priorities and delivering positive outcomes for our communities.
- 1.2 A new four year plan is being developed for 2023 - 2027. The Council Plan will define the Council's key priorities, objectives and commitments over the four year period. The plan is aimed at providing focus, setting out priorities that

will require collected corporate effort during the period. It is not an attempt to describe every service that the Council will provide; this will be covered by directorate plans on an annual basis.

- 1.3 Alongside the Council Plan we are developing a year 1 2023/24 Delivery Plan which will set out the key milestones and measures we will need to achieve to keep the Council Plan on target for delivery. The delivery plan will be reviewed annually and approved by Cabinet.
- 1.4 We will also be updating our Performance Management Framework. The framework will underpin the Council Plan, measure and demonstrate our success in terms of milestones, outputs, outcomes and measures and effectively review and challenge performance.

2.0 Council Plan 2023 – 2027

- 2.1 There will be continuity with the 2019 – 2023 Council Plan with the same:

Vision: Putting our communities first

Values:

- We are customer focused
- We take a can do approach
- We act as one council, one team
- We believe in honesty and respect

Staff have become familiar with the vision and are clearly demonstrating the Council's values which they helped to co-design. There is therefore significant benefit in leaving these unchanged and continuing to use them to shape how we talk to staff, partners and our communities about the work of the Council. The values will also be used to shape the Council's People Plan and our approach to partnership working.

- 2.2 The first two priorities will remain unchanged:
 - Making Chesterfield a thriving borough
 - Improving quality of life for local people

We are reviewing the third priority – value for money services and looking at broadening this out around building resilience across the Council as a whole. This includes our services but also financial sustainability, an effective and resilient workforce and maximising the benefits of new ways of working.

2.3 Priority - Making Chesterfield a thriving borough

We are currently developing aspirations and commitments for this priority, they will be focused around:

- Supporting our town centres
- Place infrastructure to support growth
- Visitor economy
- Helping businesses to grow and inward investment

2.4 Priority - Improving quality of life for local people

We are currently developing aspirations and commitments for this priority, they will be focused around:

- Our Climate Change target to be a carbon neutral borough by 2050
- Helping people to be healthier and more active
- Ensuring local people have the right skills to support progression in the labour market and can benefit from future employment opportunities
- Helping the most vulnerable in our borough and reducing inequality
- Improving housing standards
- Safer communities

2.5 Priority - Building a more resilient Council

We are currently developing aspirations and commitments for this priority, they will be focused around:

- Financial sustainability
- Our workforce
- Embracing new ways of working
- Our Climate Change target to be a carbon neutral Council by 2030

2.6 The Council Plan 2023 – 2027 is being developed through a series of discussions and workshops. Our evidence base

included performance information, demographics trends and forecasts and intelligence from our community engagement programme. Horizon scanning techniques have also used to consider key emerging issues over the next four years and beyond.

3.0 Barriers/obstacles

3.1 The Council Plan is being developed alongside the Medium Term Financial Plan to ensure that it is realistic and affordable. There also continues to be a lasting legacy from the Covid-19 pandemic on service delivery which feeds into Council Plan development. Demand for many services has also increased due to the cost of living crisis. There are also national and local challenges around recruitment and retention, supply chain and inflationary costs which are also key considerations.

4.0 Suggested scrutiny activity

4.1 This provides an opportunity for Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum members to feed in any key issues for consideration as part of the Council Plan development process.

Document information

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Background documents	
These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared.	
<i>None</i>	
Appendices to the report	
<i>None</i>	