

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

04 June 2024

Report of the Interim Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Executive Non Key Decisions

1 CORPORATE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

This report provides a high-level update on progress made in delivering the Council's priority actions in the Corporate Strategy Action Plan 2023/24, and seeks approval for the Corporate Strategy Action Plan 2024/25

1.1 Background:

1.1.1 The Corporate Strategy 2023-2027 was adopted in July 2023 and is our most broad strategic document. It sets out our vision, priorities and the outcomes we expect to achieve for the period up to 2027. The Action Plan provides detail on the key projects that we aim to implement in order to achieve our priorities, and as such it is important that the Action Plan is reviewed and refreshed on a regular basis.

1.2 Corporate Strategy 2023-2027:

1.2.1 The Corporate Strategy 2023-2027 sets out a clear vision "(t)o be an innovative and forward-thinking council, that leads the people and businesses of the borough towards a vibrant, prosperous and sustainable future". This vision is underpinned by three values:

- **Innovation** – embracing new ideas and technology, and proactively finding solutions that improve our services to residents.
- **Transformation** – adapting so we can meet the standards residents, businesses and all those involved in the borough council rightly expect.
- **Delivery** – ensuring we set ambitious targets that we strive to meet, in order to provide high quality public services for our residents.

1.2.2 The four priorities set out in the Corporate Strategy are:

- Efficient services for all our residents, maintaining an effective council.
- Sustaining a borough which cares for the environment.

- Improving housing options for local people whilst protecting our outdoor areas of importance.
- Investing in our local economy to help support residents and businesses and foster sustainable growth.

1.2.3 Under each of these priorities, the Corporate Strategy highlights the actions that the council and its partners will undertake.

1.3 Corporate Strategy Action Plan 2023/24 - Update

1.3.1 The 2023/24 Action Plan update is provided in Appendix 1. The vast majority of the actions set out in this plan are ongoing and, as such, have been given an 'amber' rating and also appear in the 2024/25 Action Plan. However, there are a number of positive steps that have been undertaken in 2023/24 that can be highlighted. These include:

- Efficient Services for all our Residents:
 - Adoption of the Digital Strategy 2023-2027.
 - Increased reach of social media, the My TMBC App and the TMBC Newsletter.
 - Funding allocated to the Transformation Reserve.
- Sustaining a Borough which Cares for the Environment:
 - Solid progress on the Climate Change Strategy Action Plan.
 - Completion of a Green Infrastructure Strategy to support the Local Plan.
 - Successful roll-out of dry recycling services to communal bin stores.
 - £1.5m external funding secured to decarbonise Larkfield Leisure Centre.
- Improving Housing Options for Local People:
 - Preparation for the Regulation 18b Local Plan Consultation is on track.
 - Work progressing on establishing a robust repairs and maintenance contract for temporary accommodation.
- Investing in our Local Economy:
 - Adoption of the Economic Development Strategy 2023-2027.
 - 100% of our Year 1 and 2 UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocation spent.
 - Progress on plans for Tonbridge Castle.

- Approval of Phase 2 of the Tonbridge Town Centre Review.

1.4 Corporate Strategy Action Plan 2024/25

1.4.1 The Corporate Strategy Action Plan 2024/25 is provided in Appendix 2. This Action Plan incorporates a number of the ongoing actions from 2023/24 but also includes additional actions which have increased in priority over the course of the past year. These additional actions are highlighted in bold in the document, but for ease of reference, they are set out below:

- Improve the Council's procurement function to ensure services deliver best value for money
- Provide ongoing procurement support in accordance with an updated Procurement Strategy and through joining the Mid Kent Procurement Partnership
- Build upon the positive findings of the Performance Management Internal Audit Report to strengthen the benchmarking of KPIs through the use of LGInform Plus.
- Implement Biodiversity Net Gain requirements in development management
- Adopt and Implement a Green Infrastructure Strategy
- Progress plans for the Angel Centre.

1.4.2 Subject to it being approved, mid-year and end-of-year updates will be provided to Cabinet setting out progress on the Action Plan.

1.5 Legal Implications

1.5.1 The matters raised in this report are considered to be routine, uncontroversial or not legally complex and a legal opinion has not been sought on these proposals.

1.6 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.6.1 None arising directly from this report.

1.7 Risk Assessment

1.7.1 There is a reputational risk if the Council fails to deliver the actions set out in the Action Plan, as such it is important to ensure that the plan is regularly monitored to ensure progress is being made.

1.8 Policy Considerations

1.8.1 The Corporate Strategy Action Plan is a high-level plan aimed at demonstrating how the Council aims to deliver on its key priorities as set out in the Corporate Strategy 2023-2027.

1.11 Recommendations

1.11.1 That the report and the Corporate Strategy Action Plan 2023/24 as set out in Appendix 1 **BE NOTED.**

1.11.2 That the Corporate Strategy Action Plan 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 2 **BE APPROVED.**

Background papers:

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