

CORPORATE PLAN 2023-2027 - ANNUAL ACTION PLAN PROCESS	
Executive Summary	<p>This report and accompanying appendices present the discussions of the Annual Action Plan Member Workshop events staged in recent weeks to explore possible actions and outcomes for development and delivery in support of the five themes in the adopted Corporate Plan 2023-2027.</p> <p>The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is invited to comment upon the discussions and proposed actions and project proposals and as appropriate make comment / recommendations to the Cabinet which will seek to agree priorities for the 2024/25 Annual Action Plan in the coming weeks and for such proposals to be allocated resources through the 2024/25 budget process.</p>
Options considered	This is an item for pre-scrutiny comment by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee so provides an opportunity for the Committee to discuss possible options and priorities for the Council in taking forward projects and actions in support of the five agreed Corporate Plan themes.
Consultation(s)	The recent workshops involving elected members and officers have been an inclusive and consultative process the outcomes from which should inform future priority actions and work programming by the Cabinet for delivery in the 2024/25 civic year, aligned with the 2024/25 budget preparation and revised Medium-Term Financial Strategy.
Recommendations	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is invited to comment upon the outcomes of the recent workshops staged to discuss issues and actions under each of the five themes of the recently agreed 2023-2027 Corporate Plan and to provide comment / make recommendations to Cabinet which has responsibility for agreeing priority actions or projects for inclusion in the Annual Action Plan for 2024/25.
Reasons for recommendations	Sound management of the authority's staff, property and financial resources to deliver projects and initiatives which support improved service delivery and positive outcomes aligned to the previously agreed Corporate Plan themes.
Background papers	2023 – 2027 Corporate Plan Notes from the recent themed workshop events attached as appendices to this report

Wards affected	All
Cabinet member(s)	Cllr Tim Adams, Leader of the Council
Contact Officer	Steve Blatch, Chief Executive
	Email:- steve.blatch@north-norfolk.gov.uk Tel:- 01263 516232

Links to key documents:	
Corporate Plan:	This report invites comment from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as to the range of issues it would wish to see taken forward in support of the five Corporate Plan themes in the twelve months April 2024 – March 2025.
Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)	Proposed actions, projects or initiatives will need to give due consideration to the Council's financial position as detailed in finance reports and a revised Medium-Term Financial Strategy and have the necessary resources allocated to them or efficiency savings identified through the preparation of the 2024/25 budget.
Council Policies & Strategies	See comment under Corporate Plan heading above

Corporate Governance:	
Is this a key decision	No – consultative process inviting the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to comment on possible programme of work for 2024/25 – any related decision to be taken rests with the Cabinet
Has the public interest test been applied	Yes - Information contained in the appendices of this report involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1,2 and 3, Part 1 of schedule 12A (as amended) to the Local Government Act 1972.
Details of any previous decision(s) on this matter	N/A

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 This report and accompanying appendices present the discussions of the Annual Action Plan Member Workshop events staged in recent weeks to explore possible actions and outcomes for development and delivery in support of the five themes in the adopted Corporate Plan 2023-2027.
- 1.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is invited to comment upon the discussions and proposed actions and project proposals and as appropriate make comment / recommendations to the Cabinet which will seek to agree priorities for the 2024/25 Annual Action Plan in the coming weeks and for such proposals to be allocated resources through the 2024/25 budget process.

2. Introduction & Background

- 2.1 Following the District Council elections held on 4th May, the Council adopted a new Corporate Plan for the four years 2023 – 2027 at its meeting held on 19th July 2023.
- 2.2 In agreeing the new Corporate Plan and making a positive recommendation to Full Council to adopt the Plan at its 19th July meeting, the Cabinet meeting of 3rd July 2023 resolved to :-

- 1. Agree the content of the draft Corporate Plan 2023 – 2027 as a statement of the Council’s intent and ambition for the term of this Council administration.**
- 2. Authorises the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to agree any minor revisions and changes to the final draft of the Corporate Plan document and thereafter the format / design of the document for publication, following adoption by Full Council.**
- 3. That Cabinet publishes an Action Plan detailing how the objectives detailed in the Corporate Plan will be delivered / achieved to its November 2023 meeting; and**
- 4. Recommended to Full Council that it adopts the Corporate Plan 2023 – 2027.**

2.2 At the subsequent meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 12th July 2023 the Committee, in being invited to comment on the Corporate Plan in advance of adoption by Full Council, agreed the following:-

- 1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered and commented upon the content of the draft Corporate Plan 2023–2027 recognising that it was a statement of the Council’s intent and ambition for the term of this Council administration.**

The following comments were agreed and presented to the Full Council meeting on 19th July 2023:-

- **Cabinet was asked to consider whether financial sustainability has been adequately addressed within the Corporate Plan and whether it should form a key theme.**
- **Cabinet was asked to consider whether the headline objectives of the Corporate Plan were ambitious enough; and,**
- **Cabinet was asked to consider whether issues of rurality were adequately addressed within the Corporate Plan.**

- 2. Noted the arrangements outlined for a series of member workshops in September 2023 to contribute to the development of actions / proposals for inclusion in the 2024/25 Annual Action Plan and then for the draft Action Plan being presented as a pre-scrutiny item for discussion / agreement by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its 11th October 2023 meeting.**

3. Proposals and Options

- 3.1 In accordance with the second resolution above, five member / officer workshop events have been held over the past three weeks, one for each Corporate Plan theme as follows:-
- **Meeting our local housing need** – 18th September
 - **Developing our communities** – 22nd September
 - **Our greener future** – 29th September
 - **A strong, responsible and accountable council** – 2nd October
 - **Investing in our Local Economy and Infrastructure** – 5th October
- 3.2 Each workshop has been attended by a mixture of Cabinet members, other councillors and relevant officers and has involved discussion of issues and potential responses under each of the objectives detailed under each of the Corporate Plan themes.
- 3.3 The outcomes from each workshop are appended to this report for members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review and make comments upon. The list of comments from each workshop are in a raw state, having been taken directly from the post-it-note comments made on the day without any filtering or interpretation, except for the Housing one where officer comments and proposed responses are detailed in coloured font and it would be intended that a similar approach is adopted for the other themes, although currently this is a work-in-progress.
- 3.4 Whilst each of the workshops has generated a good level of discussion of the key issues and challenges and has significantly increased the understanding of many members as to the context to each of the issues and what the District Council currently does / is able to do in terms of legislation, powers and available budgets etc – the process has perhaps not generated many new or additional ideas as to specific project interventions beyond those previously suggested by the Cabinet and officers during the development of the new Corporate Plan.
- 3.5 This provides a positive opportunity for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to comment on the workshop outcomes to date and suggest any additional actions, with any comments now made by the Committee being fed into this officer response process before the notes move forward for consideration by Cabinet at its meeting to agree the Annual Action Plans on 6th November 2023.

4. Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 The outcomes from this report will contribute to the agreement of Corporate Plan priorities and allocation of resources to support project delivery and improved working in the 2024/24 civic year.

5. Financial and Resource Implications

- 5.1 The outcomes from this report will contribute to the agreement of Corporate Plan priorities and allocation of resources to support project delivery and improved working in the 2024/24 civic year.
- 5.2 It will be for the Cabinet in reviewing the workshop outcomes and any comments made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the ability of the Council to take forward and develop further any project interventions recognizing the current local government financial context, Medium-Term Financial Strategy, need for efficiency savings and setting a balanced budget for 2024/25.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 None as a direct consequence of this report

7. Risks

- 7.1 None as a direct consequence of this report.

8. Net Zero Target

- 8.1 None as a direct consequence of this report, although one of the Corporate Plan's five themes is "our Greener Future" where the issue of Net Zero is a key consideration for and objective of the authority over the lifetime of the Corporate Plan.

9. Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

- 9.1 None as a direct consequence of this report, although a key theme running through the Corporate Plan is the issue of inclusion and equity – particularly under the themes - Meeting our local housing need; Developing our communities; Investing in our Local Economy and Infrastructure and A strong, responsible and accountable council.

10. Community Safety issues

- 10.1 None as a direct consequence of this report

11. Conclusion and Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is invited to comment upon the outcomes of the recent workshops staged to discuss issues and actions under each of the five themes of the recently agreed 2023-2027 Corporate Plan and to provide comment / make recommendations to Cabinet which has responsibility for agreeing priority actions or projects for inclusion in the Annual Action Plan for 2024/25.