

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Cabinet	Date:	10 March 2021
Subject:	2017-2021 Council Plan Update		
Report Of:	Leader of the Council		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
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Appendices:	1. Progress Report on Council Plan Actions/Projects		
	2. Council Plan 2017-2020		
	3. Council Plan Extension 2020-2021		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update Cabinet on the delivery of the activities as outlined in the Council Plan 2017-2020, as well as the Council Plan extension 2020-2021, to make Gloucester 'A City that Works for Everyone'.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that:

- (1) progress on delivery of the Council Plan 2017-2020 and Council Plan extension 2020-2021 be noted and welcomed.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 The Council Plan was approved by Council in September 2017. It set out the vision for the Council, its partners and residents to make Gloucester 'A City that Works for Everyone'. The Plan detailed the Council's planned projects and activities between 2017 and 2020, in order to achieve its ambition of improving the lives of everyone who lives in, works in and visits Gloucester.
- 3.2 A new Council Plan was due to be developed following the local elections in May 2020, however due to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, local council elections were postponed until May 2021, and a one-year Council Plan extension was agreed to by Council in May 2020.

- 3.3 The one-year Council Plan extension was intended to serve only as an interim plan, to ensure continuity of services and the delivery of major initiatives until the local elections can be held in 2021. After the 2021 elections, a process will be undertaken to develop a new Council Plan.
- 3.4 The one-year Council Plan extension followed the four structured priorities originally set out in the 2017-2020 Council Plan, which are:
1. Working to create a vibrant and prosperous city
 2. Working to maintain a safe and attractive city
 3. Working to build strong and resilient communities
 4. Working to provide great services that ensure value for money
- 3.5 The 2017-2020 Council Plan set out 38 actions and projects. Of these 38 actions and projects, 6 were carried over to the 2020-2021 Council Plan extension, of which 3 actions or projects were amended in the process. The Council Plan extension also saw 11 new projects and actions added. In total, when accounting for the actions and projects that were carried over to the Council Plan extension, 49 projects and actions were set out in the 5-year period between 2017 and 2021.
- 3.6 Delivery of the Council Plan has been strong across all priorities. Of the 49 actions and projects that are listed in both the Council Plans:
- 41 (83.6%) have been completed, or will be completed by May 2021
 - 7 (14.3%) are forecast to be completed beyond May 2021
 - 1 (2.0%) is not being progressed further
- 3.7 For the actions forecasted to be completed beyond May 2021, there are various reasons for the delays. Most cited was the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact this had on completing council priorities in the short term, as well as external restrictions due to the multiple lockdowns between 2020-2021. Other reasons for the delays are more specific to the individual actions/projects.
- 3.8 Appendix 1 shows an update on all Council Plan projects and actions. Attention is drawn to the following significant achievements:
- The Council's lead role in delivering on the regeneration priorities in the city centre including the delivery of an award-winning state of the art Transport Hub and progressing the development of Kings Quarter, including investment in a redesigned and repurposed Kings Square and Railway Station.
 - Working with stakeholders and partners to develop the vacant Blackfriars site, including the delivery of 300 units of student accommodation with a further 200 planned; and securing a preferred development partner for the historic Fleece complex.
 - Completion of phase 1 of the redevelopment of Bakers Quay providing a new hotel and restaurant alongside the Provender building.

- Adopting the Joint Core Strategy and developing and securing Council approval for the City Plan – ensuring robust and innovative planning policy frameworks to deliver high quality physical development that deliver environmental and health benefits.
- Working with the Culture Trust and other partners to deliver a £3.1m Great Place Programme with strong delivery against the 7 programme strands including leadership capacity building, artist development, events and festivals, heritage and volunteering and cultural entrepreneurship.
- Significant investments in creating a safe and attractive City Centre, including the co-funding of City Centre Wardens with the BID; and the achievement of Purple Flag accreditation for a vibrant and safe night time economy for two years running.
- The establishment of an innovative social enterprise (Podsmead CIC) who deliver a bespoke and local grass-cutting service, upskilling local people and creating employment opportunities in one of the less affluent wards in the City.
- Achieving ‘green flag status’ for Robinswood Hill; Barnwood Arboretum and Saintbridge Balancing Pond and Allotments; and working with the friend’s group at Gloucester Park to secure green flag status in the future.
- Delivering a new visitor centre at Robinswood Hill to include the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust HQ and a volunteer hub.
- Establishment of the Gloucester Community Building Collective as a means to deliver community builders in all wards; and achieving local and national recognition as a leader in strengths-based approaches.
- Facilitating the delivery of key housing sites in the City Centre (Black Dog Way; Greyfriars and The Barbican) for private, affordable and social housing
- Successful relocation of council staff into Shire Hall and opening a new and purpose-built customer services hub (The Gateway), enabling Herbert, Kimberley and Phillipotts Warehouse complex to be repurposed in line with the regeneration priorities for the City.
- Delivering property investments in St. Oswald’s Retail park and the Eastgate Shopping Centre, achieving significant financial returns for the Council as well as supporting the City’s regeneration.
- Reduce risks faced by rough sleepers through the implementation of social impact bonds.
- COVID-19 has enabled Housing Services to house more people temporarily and focus on their needs to help avoid further homelessness. Taking a bespoke approach to homeless households and rough sleepers has seen a

reduction in the number rough sleeping since March 2020. The success of the NSAP bid has secured 51 units of supported accommodation which, on top of other schemes, provides a significant amount of accommodation to meet the current demand.

- The adoption and implementation of the Social Value Policy, which now forms part of our procurement packs. We are working with the VCS and contractors to ensure that social value projects are appropriate and meet current needs in our community.

4.0 Social Value Considerations

4.1 Several actions/projects have a direct positive impact on generating social value.

5.0 Environmental Implications

5.1 Several actions/projects have a direct positive impact on the environment.

6.0 Alternative Options Considered

6.1 None directly arising from this report.

7.0 Reasons for Recommendations

7.1 This update on the delivery of the Council Plan 2017-2020, and the Council Plan extension 2020-2021, enables members, partners, and residents to hold the Council to account for the delivery of its planned actions.

8.0 Future Work and Conclusions

8.1 Council officers will continue to deliver projects not yet completed.

9.0 Financial Implications

9.1 None directly arising from this report.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report.)

10.0 Legal Implications

10.1 None directly arising from this report.

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation of this report.)

11.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

11.1 N/A

12.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:

12.1 N/A

13.0 Community Safety Implications

13.1 Several actions/projects have a direct positive impact on the community safety considerations.

14.0 Staffing & Trade Union Implications

14.1 N/A

Background Documents: None