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| Meeting: | Cabinet Council | Date: | 12 January 2022 27 January 2022 |
| Subject: | Council Plan 2022-2024 | | |
| Report Of: | Leader of the Council | | |
| Wards Affected: | All | | |
| Key Decision: | Yes | Budget/Policy Framework: | Yes |
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| Appendices: | 1. Gloucester City Council - 2022-2024 Council Plan 2. Public Consultation Results | | |

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report presents the draft Council Plan 2022-2024 for approval.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet is asked to **RECOMMEND** the draft Council Plan 2022-2024 to Council for approval.
- 2.2 Council is asked to **RESOLVE** that the draft Council Plan 2022-2024 be approved.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 The Council Plan sets out Gloucester City Council's strategic direction over the next two years and how it intends to deliver its vision through a set of priorities and promises that are underpinned by its core values. The new Council Plan succeeds the previous Council Plan and Council Plan Extension, which covered the periods of 2017-2020 and 2020-2021 respectively.
- 3.2 Following the elections in May 2021 the Cabinet, working alongside officers, undertook a review of existing workstreams and defined a set of new objectives. From this, a strategic vision has been developed that communicates what the council will be doing and how it will direct its resources over the next three years.

3.3 The overarching vision is to work with partners and residents in *Building a greener, fairer, better Gloucester*.

3.4 The priorities that set out how this will be achieved are:

1. Building greener, healthier, and more inclusive communities
2. Building a sustainable city of diverse culture and opportunity
3. Building a socially responsible and empowering council

3.5 The vision, priorities and promises, guided by the Administration's key objectives, are driven by a strong sense of environmental responsibility and a desire to tackle inequality, and the draft Plan seeks to place these two overarching themes at the heart of every strategic objective. The priorities and promises offer a focus on people, place, and the council, and the promises have been drafted to reflect the Administration's plans and aspirations for the city, while also ensuring that the council is equipped to continue delivering quality services and recover from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. The draft Plan highlights the important roles of many stakeholders in achieving the council's vision, with a clear focus on working with others to achieve our ambitions.

3.6 Consultation

3.6.1 In accordance with the council's Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, a six-week public consultation has been undertaken and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee also considered the draft Plan and were invited to provide any comments as part of the consultation process. Moreover, the consultation was distributed to all major partners of the City Council, encouraging them to respond. The purpose of the consultation was to obtain views on the overall direction of the draft Plan, the main themes and priority areas. The results of the public consultation are found in Appendix 2. The key findings are as follows:

3.6.2 The Council received 67 responses in total, of which 75% were from Gloucester residents, 10% were responding on behalf of a Gloucester business, 8% were residents from elsewhere in Gloucestershire and the remaining 7% selected 'Other'.

3.6.3 The majority of those who responded agree with the themes and priorities the council has set out. 77% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with Gloucester's proposed vision – "*Building a greener, fairer, better Gloucester*".

3.6.4 When asked whether addressing inequalities and taking action on climate change in Gloucester should be areas of focus for the council, there was strong support for both of these proposed cross cutting themes. With 82% of respondents either agreeing or strongly agreeing that addressing inequalities should be a priority, and 77% of respondents either agreeing or strongly agreeing with the proposed priority of taking action on climate change, there is a clear directive from Gloucester's communities that these two topics are a priority.

- 3.6.5 The qualitative comments submitted as part of the consultation largely demonstrate that respondents support the priorities set out in the Draft Council Plan. These comments emphasise the need to improve Gloucester's open spaces, working with grassroots communities and ensuring residents have their voices heard over what happens in their local areas. Suggestions for specific action have been considered and, where possible, incorporated into the actions and key measures.
- 3.6.6 In conclusion, as set out in Appendix 2, a majority of those who responded to the public consultation are supportive of the vision, priorities and themes set out in the draft Council Plan.

3.7 Monitoring the Council Plan

- 3.7.1 The specific actions and key measures outlined in Appendix 1 highlight the individual projects, initiatives and workstreams that form the basis of this Council Plan. The success of the Council Plan will be measured and monitored through these actions and key measures, and they will be incorporated into Service Plans and the individual objectives of Officers. This is to ensure that the Council Plan is realised, and projects are fully implemented and completed as outlined.

4.0 Social Value Considerations

- 4.1 The council's commitment to obtaining social value from its activities is highlighted within the draft Plan and is key to supporting the overarching themes of environmental responsibility and tackling inequalities.

5.0 Environmental Implications

- 5.1 Sustainability and tackling climate change makes up one of the two main themes that underpin the priorities in the draft Council Plan.

6.0 Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 The development of the draft Council Plan has been an iterative process with alternative options considered throughout.

7.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 7.1 A new Council Plan is required to succeed the current plan, and the report sets out the draft Plan and key steps to approving the final version.

8.0 Future Work and Conclusions

- 8.1 The timetable for approval of the final Council Plan is as follows:

| Date | Work Involved |
|-----------------|---|
| 12 January 2022 | Cabinet – To recommend the final Council Plan to Council for approval, incorporating public and O&S comments |
| 27 January 2022 | Council – To approve the final Council Plan |

9.0 Financial Implications

- 9.1 There are no specific financial implications resulting from this report; however, the council's Money Plan reflects the Administration's priorities, and the council's agreed plans and strategies that have informed the development of the Council Plan.

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

10.0 Legal Implications

- 10.1 The Council Plan is a non-statutory element of the council's Policy Framework and, as such, must be approved by the full Council. This report is the first step towards approving the final Council Plan.

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

11.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 11.1 Risks and opportunities will be considered as part of the council's strategic and service risk registers ensuring that risk management is embedded in the council's approach to managing its performance, capturing all associated risks and proposals for their management and mitigation.

12.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:

- 12.1 Equalities and inclusion is the second of the two themes running throughout each of the priority areas in the draft Council Plan and, in accordance with the PIA process, impacts will be assessed on a project-by-project basis.

13.0 Community Safety Implications

- 13.1 Community safety remains a priority for the council and there will be actions and projects that specifically target this.

14.0 Staffing & Trade Union Implications

- 14.1 Council Plan actions and measures will inform staff Personal Performance Plans, ensuring that all staff understand how their role contributes to the delivery of the council's strategic vision.

Background Documents: None