

Council Plan: Strategic Priorities Update 29 January 2020

Report of Cabinet

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To agree the Council's strategic priorities, for the purpose of informing budget decisions for 2020-21 and future years, and developing a comprehensive strategic plan in consultation with stakeholders.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That Council adopt the priorities set out in Appendix B as the basis for further development of its Policy Framework including budget decisions for 2020-21 and future years.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Cabinet and 'alliance' leaders developed the priorities set out in Appendix B during 2019, formally agreeing these at the Cabinet meeting of 14 January 2020. The Cabinet report at Appendix A contains details of the process for developing these.

1.2 Cabinet agreed to consider these priorities to inform its budget recommendations for 2020-21, and refer the priorities for adoption by Full Council.

2.0 Proposal Details

2.1 Council is asked to adopt the priorities set out in Appendix B. If adopted, these would form the basis of its Policy Framework, with further activity to follow in developing the outline priorities into a more detailed strategy.

3.0 Details of Consultation

3.1 Appendix A summarises the consultation activity carried out so far. Adoption of the high-level priorities by Council will trigger wide-ranging further consultation activity, as the outline priorities are developed into a comprehensive strategic plan.

4.0 Options and Options Analysis

	Option 1: Agree the new priorities	Option 2: Do not agree the new priorities
Advantages	The council will have a refreshed set of clear priorities, agreed by Cabinet, to inform its strategic decision-making.	No specific advantages as the current Policy Framework will be unchanged.

Disadvantages	The Policy Framework priorities will be at an outline level during the time taken to consult and develop a comprehensive strategic plan.	A lack of clear alignment between Cabinet's identified priorities and Full Council would impact the council's strategic decision-making.
Risks	Adopting priorities at outline level could cause some ambiguity while consultation and development is ongoing; minimal risk in comparison to failing to agree new priorities.	As stated above, failing to agree new priorities would have a considerable negative impact on decision-making, as the Policy Framework would not reflect Cabinet's strategic priorities.

5.0 Officer Preferred Option (and comments)

- 5.1 The officer recommended option is Option 1, agreeing the proposed new priorities and enabling further consultative strategy development in line with Cabinet's aims.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

The priorities will supersede those set out in Ambitions: Our Council Plan 2018-22. As the priorities are currently set out in outline form, agreement of these by Council would trigger wide-ranging further consultation activity, developing the priorities into a comprehensive strategic plan.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, HR, Sustainability and Rural Proofing):

Whilst adoption of the priorities will result in refocusing many of the council's activities, the content of this report has no impact in itself.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS No legal implications directly arising from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS No financial implications directly arising from this report.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS, such as Human Resources, Information Services, Property, Open Spaces:

No other implications directly arising from this report.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

Although there are no financial implications arising directly from this report the updating of the Council's priorities will have a significant impact informing the Council's budgets and budgeting processes for 2020/21 and beyond.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

By law the Council must have a Policy Framework. The Council Plan forms part of that Policy Framework and is to be decided by Full Council.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix A: Cabinet Report 14 Jan 2020

Appendix B: Draft Priorities Update

Contact Officer: Kieran Keane

Chief Executive

Telephone: 01524 582501

E-mail: chiefexecutive@lancaster.gov.uk