

# OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## The Council Plan 2026-2028 18/03/2026

### Report of Chief Executive

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To outline the process and planned content to refresh the Council Plan 2026-2028.

**This report is public**

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

**(1) Overview and Scrutiny committee are invited to contribute to a refresh of the Council Plan to cover the years 2026-2028**

1.1 The Council Plan is the key document that sets the strategic direction for our place and guides the work of the Council. The Council has an agreed plan to cover the years 2024-2027.

1.2 Since the Council plan was last adopted Government has now set out its plans for reorganisation of Local Government. New unitary Councils will commence in 2028.

1.3 An up to date Council adopted plan should be a key document to guide the strategic direction of the new unitary Council. It will provide evidence to the shadow and new Council of the key outcomes, programmes and projects that have been developed through engaging with our residents, businesses and partners.

1.4 The guiding document is the Priority Policies (plan on a page). This sets out 4 principles, 4 themes and 24 ambitions. These align with the Council's budget, Medium Term financial planning strategy, performance management framework and service business planning. There is no intention to refresh these.

1.5 However to evidence the direction of travel and impact of these Priority Policies the supporting narrative within the Council plan 2024-2027 is in need of refreshing. This will highlight what the Council has achieved from 2024 and state clearly what it intends to achieve between now and 2028. It will also set out contextual issues including LGR and the Council's MTFS.

#### **2.0 Recommendation**

2.1 The Council is responsible for approving and adopting the budget and policy framework, which includes the Council Plan.

- 2.2 Cabinet is responsible for the preparation of draft Budget and Policy Framework documents and in so doing should consult with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to include in its submission to the Full Council a statement of views received and the Cabinet response to those views.
- 2.3 As such Overview and Scrutiny committee is invited to provide its comments and recommendations to aid the refresh of the Council plan that will take Lancaster City Council to 2028.
- 2.4 All councillors will be given opportunity to be briefed on and to offer contributions to the draft drawn up after consultation with O+S members, cabinet members and officers.

**CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT  
(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing):**

These will be provided as the refresh of the Council Plan is drafted

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are none directly arising from this report

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are none directly arising from this report

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

There are none directly arising from this report

**SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments at this stage.

**MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments at this stage.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The Council Plan 2024-2027

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