

TITLE: Corporate Plan

Committee: Council

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1.0 Issue

1.1. The updated Action Plan for 2025-26 to support the implementation of the 2023-27 Corporate Plan.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1. Members are requested to:

- (i) Approve the updated Action Plan for 2025-26 at Appendix 1.
- (ii) Note the completed actions and progress made during the past 12 months.

3.0 Background/Options

3.1. The Corporate Plan 2023-27 was agreed by Council on 13 July 2023 (ref Agenda item 9) together with an action plan for 2023-24. The Action Plan to support the implementation of the Corporate Plan is updated annually.

4.0 Arguments/Conclusions

4.1. The proposed Action Plan for 2025-26 is attached as Appendix 1. Paragraph 4.2 outlines the achievements of the Council in meeting the 2024-25 commitments agreed by Council in July 2024.

4.2. Significant progress has been made in 2024-25, specifically:

- A Council Tax freeze for a 12th consecutive year.
- Construction of the Bereavement Centre has commenced.
- Since the inception of the Planning Review and implementation of the findings the service has seen significant improvements in overall service delivery due to changes across our processes and policies, staffing, use of digital tools and adoption of a continuous improvement methodology. Headline figures include a 51% reduction in the use of Extension of Times and a 38% decrease in the number of applications held in the back log. There has also been an increase in income derived from planning performance agreements which will be reflected in the end of year 25/26 accounts (Circa £60,000 first 5 months) and an increase in income derived from pre apps from £29,726 in year end 2022/23 to £107,580 in year end 2024/2025.

- Solar panels have been installed on The Hive leisure centre. These are forecast to save at least c£18,500 in electricity running costs and generate 91MWh of electricity per annum, resulting in a c19tonnes CO₂e annual saving.
- Our refuse collection vehicles moved away from diesel to HVO fuel which should deliver up to 80% saving in emissions.
- Support has been given to Haddenham CLT regarding a potential extension to the CLT development at Ovins Rise.
- The Digital Inclusion project provided training to 35 participants and enabled 32 of those participants to obtain an accredited qualification.
- A new overarching Housing Strategy for the district has been approved
- A report setting out the strategic case for a network of agricultural reservoirs to improve water resilience has been produced.
- Parish councils have received an Inclusive Play Audit on play areas in their parish.

4.3 A number of actions will need to be carried over, specifically, development of an Inclusive Play Audit, city/town centre improvements, strategic transport priorities, Road Safety Volunteer Scheme and the strategic review of long-term waste infrastructure needs.

- Inclusive Play Audit - During 2024/25 the Council commissioned an Inclusive Play Audit. The audit first focused on areas owned or managed by the Parish/Town Council. The audit of District Council owned sites is underway and will conclude during 2025/26. The audit will inform the development of the Inclusive Play Strategy. Members will continue to receive updates on progress through the Assets Update report at the Finance & Assets Committee.
- Road Safety Volunteer Scheme – Officers are working with Cambridgeshire Constabulary to fund a PCSO on a part time basis to deliver parking enforcement across the district.
- Strategic review of long-term waste infrastructure needs - Existing work to review the Cambridgeshire County Council long term disposal contracts and Local Government Re-organisation will impact on the longer term needs of the region. Therefore, only background data and details being gathered to support a future proposal. When local government structures and the outcome of the County review are known, detailed work can begin.

4.4 The key issues affecting the delivery of the Action Plan and wider Corporate Plan will be the uncertainty around future funding and the English Devolution White Paper and local government reorganisation. The Council will continue to face

considerable challenges, most notably the cost of living and recruitment and retention of staff in key sectors.

4.5 The corporate actions for 2025 – 2026 are detailed in Appendix 1.

5.0 Additional Implications Assessment

5.1 In the table below, please put Yes or No in each box:

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Human Resources (HR) Implications
No	No	No
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) No	Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) No	Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) No

6.0 Appendices

Appendix 1: Updated Action Plan 2025-26.

7.0 Background documents

[Council 13 July 2023 - Agenda Item 9](#)