

TITLE: Corporate Plan

Committee: Council

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1.0 Issue

- 1.1. The updated Action Plan for 2024-25 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 2024-25 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 2024-25 is attached as Appendix 1. Paragraph 4.2 outlines the achievements of the Council in meeting its 2023-24 commitments agreed by Council in July 2023.
- 4.2. Significant progress has been made in 2023-24, specifically,
- Council Tax freeze in 2023-24 for the eleventh consecutive year.
 - Eden Square – application process launched for 4 £100k houses in July 2024.
 - Planning Review – New service structure consulted upon through JCC and training programme introduced. Secured £100k DLUHC funding to improve digital offer. Reduction of use of ‘Extension of Time’ and introduction of the major project group that has reduced caseload backlog by 42%. Introduction

of negotiation protocol and pre-application offer, redesign of process to introduce more automation and reduce inefficient processes

- 'Love Your Street' launched with funding secured for chewing campaign, name the vehicle competition, increase social media awareness. Project 'Street Smart' has introduced a new waste digital service, new working practices, and staffing structure recruited too. All RCVs moved over to HVO and new street cleansing vehicles on order.
- Long-term Waste and Street Cleansing proposals – Secured c£830k new burdens capital funding for introduction of weekly food waste recycling, Member Working party established to define requirements for new Waste Collection and Street Cleansing service (due to report to September Operational Services Committee).
- Environmental Crime Action Plan adopted in November 2023, proactive approach to fly-tipping enforcement has achieved 8 FPNs and 1 prosecution. Allocated £750k of up to £2m CERP funding with a new direct marketing campaign launched by the contractor to further promote the offer.
- The Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2027 was approved in March 2024 and work is underway to deliver the actions contained in the plan.
- The Council launched its Councils proposed UK Shared Prosperity and Rural England Prosperity Business Grant Scheme in April 2024 and to date over 100 expressions of interest have been received, with 44 Full Applications now being processed. The interest in the scheme has meant funding is already fully subscribed. The Local Enterprise Support Scheme 'Get Set and Grow' programme delivered through BIPC, is aimed at startup businesses and commenced in October 2023.
- Sustrans produced a further 5 route feasibility studies and completed development work on the initial studies. The Council is engaging with the CPCA's ongoing Bus Reform work, has 2 representatives on the A10 Ely to A14 Improvement Scheme Member Working Party, and continues to work with partners to progress other transport-related projects.
- Opposing Congestion Charges - In July 2023 the Council passed a motion urging the GCP, CCC, and the CPCA to cease work on the implementation of road charging and, with all partner organisations, MPs, businesses, and organisations across Cambridgeshire, to develop alternative proposals that demonstrate public support, focussing on both early delivery of multiple small improvements as well as accelerating work on larger projects that can and will encourage people away from private vehicle use.
- Bereavement Centre – Full Business case approved by Council in February 2024. Project Team established, first major milestone will be the full procurement for design and build to start late 2025.

4.3 A number of actions will need to be carried over, specifically, city/town centre improvements, a new Local Plan, strategic transport priorities, Road Safety Volunteer Scheme.

- CERP funding – a further 8 months to invest £1.25m in energy efficiency measures for non-gas homes
- Road Safety Volunteer Scheme – In November 2023 Cambridgeshire Constabulary agreed to pilot the Road Safety Police Support Volunteer (RSPSV) role, using Special Constables but that initially their remit (and delegated powers) be limited to road-safety issues, i.e. speeding and dangerous parking. The aim is to launch the pilot in 2024.
- Preliminary work commenced on a new ‘climate’ chapter for the new Local Plan. However, following new guidance issued by the Government it was agreed in March 2024 to delay this work until greater clarity emerges on Government expectations for Local Plan climate-related policies.

4.4 The key issue affecting the delivery of the Action Plan and wider Corporate Plan will be the new government’s legislative programme, particularly in the area of housing and planning policy reform. The Council will continue to face considerable challenges, most notably: the cost of living, recruitment and retention of staff in key sectors, and priorities and capacity concerns at the Combined Authority.

4.5 The corporate actions for 2024 to 2025 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 No	Legal Implications No	Human Resources (HR) Implications No
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) No	Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) No	Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) No

6.0 Appendices

6.1 Appendix 1: Updated Action Plan 2024-25.

Background documents

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

