



Report of:	Meeting	Date
Rebecca Huddleston, Chief Executive	Overview and Scrutiny	16 October 2023

Draft Council Plan Priorities

1. Purpose of report

1.1 To provide an overview of the development of the Council Plan and to share and seek feedback on the proposed changes to the Council's priorities and commitments.

2. Council priorities

2.1 The Council Plan sets the overall priorities for the Council and this work to refresh the Council Plan considers each of the Council's existing priorities and whether any changes to them should be made at this point in time.

3. Recommendation

3.1 Members are asked to note the overview of the Council Plan development process and provide any feedback they have on the emerging Council Plan.

4. Background

4.1 The Council Plan provides a clear statement of what the Council aims to achieve over the medium to long term. It sets out not only the Council's vision, priorities, and commitments for the next four years, but also the key activities to be delivered through the key projects and how we intend to measure success.

4.2 Over recent years the Council has developed a Business Plan document to align with the four year election cycle, with annual reviews taking place to make small changes as required and to update projects and measures.

4.3 The current Business Plan (Appendix A) was approved by Council in March 2023 and now following the elections, is due a more significant review.

4.4 Moving forwards the Business Plan will be referred to as a Council Plan, which is more in line with the naming of a councils most strategic and overarching plan across the local government sector and as it better describes what it is.

5. Council Plan Development Process

5.1 Work started in July 2023 in preparation for refreshing the Council Plan by developing a 'big issues' briefing paper. The paper provides:

- a snap shot of key national and local policy developments which could impact Wyre over the next twelve months and beyond;
- includes useful data on a range of issues such as crime, housing, employment, and resident satisfaction; and
- references some specific organisational context regarding finance, assets and workforce.

5.2 This document provides useful context to understand the issues and opportunities facing the borough. It was used to feed into a workshop with Cabinet members in August to discuss and develop emerging priorities for the Council, over the next four years and beyond.

5.3 The emerging priorities were then developed further, alongside the big issues briefing paper and best practice from other Local Authorities, with the outcome being to develop a range of commitment statements for each priority area for the Cabinet to consider.

5.4 A further session with Cabinet members in September has refined the priorities and commitments further and Appendix B, sets out the draft proposals for Overview and Scrutiny to discuss and provide feedback on.

6. Next Steps

6.1 A workshop with directors and heads of service is taking place in October to get their feedback and input into the Council Plan development. At this workshop, proposals for projects and measures which will help us to deliver against the refreshed priorities will be developed. These will enable members to effectively monitor progress in delivering against our priority areas and commitments.

6.2 Appendix C sets out the projects which are included in the current plan and provides an initial indication as to whether these maybe carried across into the new plan as well as where new projects will need to be considered as the Council Plan is finalised.

6.3 The measures which are set out in the current business plan will all be reviewed and replaced with new ones where required. The current measures have been developed to monitor progress against project delivery. However, as part of the refresh of the Council Plan, the intention is to develop measures which will help us track progress against the medium term priorities and commitments. Project progress will be

monitored regularly through highlight reporting against project plans and documentation which will be put in place for all Council Plan projects. This will strengthen our performance monitoring and project delivery approach, enabling us to better track the direction of travel towards our medium-term commitments as well as progress in delivering our current projects.

- 6.4** Once the drafting of the Council Plan is completed, the document will be designed, prior to it being recommended to Council for approval in November. Bringing the Council Plan to Council for approval at this time will ensure that new priorities, projects and the capacity and skills needed to deliver them can feed into the budget planning process.
- 6.5** Alongside the development of the Council Plan, the approach to monitoring delivery of the Council Plan is being reviewed, with the aim to strengthen this process further. Proposals for this will be presented alongside the Council Plan at the Council meeting in November.
- 6.6** An Equality Impact Assessment will also be completed and presented to Council, alongside the Council Plan.

7. Alternative options considered and rejected

- 7.1** The alternative option is not to review the Business Plan, however this would mean that it may no longer reflect the needs of our communities and businesses within the Borough, as well as projects and measures no longer being relevant and therefore this option has been rejected.

Financial, Legal and Climate Change implications	
Finance	There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.
Legal	There are no legal implications arising from the report. However, there may be individual legal implications for some of the priorities outlined in the Council Plan.
Climate Change	There are no climate change implications arising directly from this report.

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x

equality and diversity	x
health and safety	x

ICT	x
data protection	x

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

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List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
Big Issues Briefing Note	August	via email on request

List of appendices

- A. Business Plan 2019 – 2023 (Current Business Plan)
- B. Draft Council Plan – Priorities and Commitments
- C. Initial Project Review