

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

TO:	Council		
DATE:	23 rd March 2021		
TITLE:	Investing in Reading's Future: Reading Borough Council Corporate Plan 2021-22		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	Councillor Jason Brock	PORTFOLIO:	Leadership
SERVICE:	All	WARDS:	All
LEAD OFFICER:	Peter Sloman	TEL:	72067
JOB TITLE:	Chief Executive	E-MAIL:	Peter.Sloman @reading.gov.uk

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 'Shaping Reading's Future: Our Corporate Plan 2018-21' was approved at Council in June 2018 with an annual refresh published in June 2019.
- 1.2 In the context of the level of uncertainty due to the continuing pandemic we have chosen to create a one-year corporate plan for 2021/22.
- 1.3 This new corporate plan 'Investing in Reading's Future: Reading Borough Council Corporate Plan 2021-22' sets out:
- The Council's vision and themes which provide the context for service delivery;
 - The major initiatives that support delivery of the vision and the difference we want to see for Reading
 - How the Council works together with partners and our contribution to Investing in Reading's Future; and
 - How we will measure the difference that we make
- 1.4 The final draft plan is attached at Appendix 1.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Council's Corporate Plan, titled 'Investing in Reading's Future: Reading Borough Council Corporate Plan 2021-22' be approved as included at Appendix 1 to the report.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Council's Corporate Plan reflects our priorities for Reading and provides direction for our staff in delivering services to meet the needs of our communities whilst working to a budget set by our medium-term financial strategy. In June 2019 Council had approved an annual refresh of 'Shaping Reading's Future: Our Corporate Plan 2018-21'.

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 'Investing in Reading's Future: Reading Borough Council Corporate Plan 2021-22' is attached at Appendix 1.
- 4.2 Progress against our measures and targets is reported to Councillors and a quarterly performance report is published four times per year.

Service Plans

- 4.3 Service plans will be refreshed alongside the Corporate and Medium-Term Financial Plan.
- 4.4 A Performance Improvement Framework is in place including reporting mechanisms that provide a 'golden thread' linking the Corporate Plan objectives, service and team plans through to the performance targets of individual staff.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 Our vision as Reading Borough Council is:

To ensure that Reading realises its potential - and to ensure that everyone who lives and works here can share the benefits of its success.

We have three themes which contribute to delivering this vision. We will drive the change that we want to see in Reading by focussing on these three themes. These are:

- Healthy environment
- Thriving communities
- Inclusive economy

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 6.1 Budget-related communications and consultations will continue to be a priority over the next three years as we work to identify savings and income opportunities.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.1 The Council declared a Climate Emergency at its meeting on 26 February 2019. There are no specific environmental and climate implications to report in relation to the recommendations set out in this report.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to–
- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 8.2 The equality duty is relevant to the development of the Corporate Plan and an Equality Impact Assessment has been completed.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no legal requirements to have a Corporate Plan. However, it is a key strategic document which sets out the Council's key priorities and provides a framework for both budget development and service delivery.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The priorities within the Corporate Plan form the basis of our spending plans over the next three years. The Council's financial position remains challenging over the period of the Plan with an on-going need to drive efficiency, productivity and income in order to secure service delivery. Therefore, this plan and the budget will continue to be updated every year to take account of changes.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 Appendix 1 - 'Investing in Reading's Future: Reading Borough Council Corporate Plan 2021-22'