

To: Cabinet

Date: 7 February 2024

Report/Comments of: Scrutiny Committee

Title: Scrutiny feedback to Cabinet – New Corporate Strategy: Vision 2036 and Corporate Delivery Plan

SUMMARY OF REPORT CONSIDERED	
Report Title:	New Corporate Strategy: Vision 2036 and Corporate Delivery Plan
Purpose/Description of Report:	The Council's current Corporate Strategy is due to end in April 2024 and the report sets out the Council's new Corporate Strategy, including a longer-term vision for Melton up to 2036.
Key Decision:	No
Scrutiny Lead Member:	Cllr M Brown, Scrutiny Committee Chairman
Relevant Portfolio Holder:	Cllr P Allnatt, Leader of the Council

1. Introduction and Overview

The Scrutiny Committee met on 25 January 2024 to consider a report on the New Corporate Strategy: Vision 2036 and Corporate Delivery Plan.

The Council's current Corporate Strategy due to end in April 2024 and the report sets out the Council's new Corporate Strategy, including a longer-term vision for Melton up to 2036; with a number of strategic vision statements being proposed.

The report seeks to confirm the finalised statements following a period of public consultation which took place between December 2023 and January 2024. It is intended that the vision will become the cornerstone of the new Corporate Strategy setting the long-term focus and direction for the Council.

The vision is underpinned by the 4-year Corporate Delivery Plan (CDP),

which sets out specific Council objectives, actions, and timelines for delivery. The CDP is linked to the budget and MTF5 and will be considered for approval alongside these documents at Council on 8 February 2024.

2. Summary of Feedback/Recommendations for Cabinet Consideration

- Members discussed the funding of the business case for the GP surgery. It was explained that it is a joint piece of work between the Integrated Care Board and the Council. The total cost is expected to be £150k with the Council contributing £75k which is to be funded by the Asset Development Programme and the Business Pool.
- The funding for the Town Centre Coordinator role was raised. It was confirmed that there is no budget allocated and that Officers are currently exploring the possibility. If there is a proposal then it would be presented to Members for a decision.
- A comment was made regarding Statement 3 on whether the MMDR should be recognised as an enabler of sustainable homes. Members were informed that it was important that an explicit reference remained within the Strategy.
- Concern was raised on what would happen if sections of the MMDR were not to be built. It was confirmed that the Local Plan is dependent on the MMDR being built and if a section doesn't proceed then it is likely a new Local Plan would be required.
- The Committee questioned whether Statement 4 relates to Council homes or other social rented housing too. It was confirmed that all tenure types would be covered by the statement.
- The question was asked on what the finite deliverables are and how would they be measured. It was explained that there will be a corporate performance framework which will have measurable targets and which will be reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis. The Corporate Delivery Plan is being updated prior to final publication to increase clarity where possible.
- A comment was made in relation to Statement 8 and the phrase 'net zero', and whether it was a phrase that was understood by the public.
- Members sought clarity on how the Council intends to engage with young people. It was explained that the Communications and Engagement Strategy would outline how the Council will engage with young people but that currently Officers are reviewing how to do that, as young people want to be involved in different ways. It was also noted that the strategy includes a commitment to develop a young persons strategy which will consider this further.
- The comment was made that the consultation took place over Christmas and New Year, which could have led to the low engagement

rate. A further comment was made in relation to the consultation, in that the questions would lead to people commenting on things they want, as opposed to identifying what activities are a priority for people. It was acknowledged that consultations through surveys will always have limitations, and that within the corporate delivery plan, there were commitments to improve engagement and some additional resource allocated in the budget.

- The comment was made that there is a mismatch between improving engagement and then a reference to reducing the amount of polling stations. It was explained that the polling station review is a statutory process, against set criteria and that that whilst ensuring efficiency is important, access to the democracy process is of paramount importance. It was confirmed that the reference in the strategy would be updated to reflect this.
- Members would like the Council to campaign for an increase in the uptake of postal votes. In response, Members were informed that the Council already does this but would continue to promote it and welcomed any further suggestions for how this could be done.
- A query was raised what the practical implication is of having young people discharged from care being treated as a protected characteristic. It was explained that the rationale is that people from that background are at a significant disadvantage and by giving them this status, the Council would give due consideration to that group of people when developing a policy or strategy.
- Members want the Council to ensure consideration of value for money in everything it does and the reference to this in the strategy was welcomed.
- A concern was raised in that, even though transport links are important, the Council does not want to project the impression that it has more power than it does over this area, though it was recognised the council had an important role in lobbying partners.

Written by: Scrutiny Committee Chairman in consultation with Members of the Scrutiny Committee