

Agenda



Listening Learning Leading

Contact Officer: Candida Mckelvey, Democratic Services Officer

Tel: 01235 422524

E-mail: candida.mckelvey@southoxon.gov.uk

Date: 30 June 2020

Website: www.southoxon.gov.uk

A MEETING OF THE

Scrutiny Committee

WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8 JULY 2020 AT 6.30 PM

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<https://bit.ly/31rofyv>

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Members of the Committee:

Ian White (Chairman)

Mocky Khan (Vice-Chair)

Anna Badcock

Sam Casey-Rerhaye

Simon Hewardine

Stefan Gawrysiak

Alexandrine Kantor

George Levy

David Turner

Substitutes

Ken Arlett

David Bretherton

Peter Dragonetti

Kate Gregory

Victoria Haval

Lorraine Hillier

Kellie Hinton

Axel Macdonald

Jo Robb

Ian Snowdon

Alan Thompson

Celia Wilson

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1 Chairman's announcements

To receive any announcements from the chairman.

2 Apologies for absence

To record apologies for absence and the attendance of substitute members.

3 Minutes (Pages 4 - 7)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the committee minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2020.

4 Declarations of interest

To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

5 Public participation

To receive any questions or statements from members of the public that have registered to speak.

6 Urgent business

To receive notification of any matters which the chairman determines should be considered as urgent business and the special circumstances which have made the matters urgent.

REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 Review and comment on the draft Corporate Plan 2020-2024 for public consultation

An opportunity for the committee to review the Cabinet's developing thinking on the Corporate Plan 2020-24 themes and illustrative projects and provide any recommendations to Cabinet on its contents in advance of any public engagement and Cabinet on 9 July 2020.

8 Work schedule and dates for all South and Vale scrutiny meetings

(Pages 8 - 12)

To review the attached scrutiny work schedule. Please note, although the dates are confirmed, the items under consideration are subject to being withdrawn, added to or rearranged without further notice.

MARGARET REED

Head of Legal and Democratic



Listening Learning Leading

Minutes

OF A MEETING OF THE

Scrutiny Committee

HELD ON TUESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 6.30 PM

MEETING ROOM 1, 135 EASTERN AVENUE, MILTON PARK, MILTON, OX14 4SB

Present:

Ian White (Chairman)
Mocky Khan, Anna Badcock, Sam Casey-Rerhaye, Stefan Gawrysiak, Alexandrine Kantor,
and Anne-Marie Simpson

Officers:

Steven Corrigan, Simon Hewings, Candida Mckelvey, Richard Spraggett, Mark Stone

Also present: Councillor Robin Bennett, Councillor Sue Cooper, Councillor Maggie Filipova Rivers, Councillor David Turner, Councillor Sue Roberts and Councillor Andrea Powell

36 Apologies for absence

Councillor Levy sent apologies for absence.

37 Declarations of interest

None.

38 Urgent business and chairman's announcements

None.

39 Public participation

Councillor Sue Roberts, Chair of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee (CEAC), addressed the Scrutiny Committee regarding the £106,000 in the draft budget to fund the proposed one year climate emergency work programme, to address the climate emergency declared by the Council. Councillor Roberts commended this budget to the committee. The task and finish group, which includes councillors from the CEAC, carefully prioritised cost effective project options with the highest impact. These include office

electric pool cars and the Crowmarsh office, which should aim to be zero carbon in build and operations without offsetting offsite. County wide collaboration will be important to deliver targets.

The committee discussed the scoped one day conference for officers and key stakeholders. Councillor Roberts confirmed that the event was cost effective and important to bring people together on climate related issues. The task and finish group would carry out cost analysis and gauge the number of attendees.

A dedicated officer will be needed in the year ahead to support the plans and the nature recovery network.

Councillor Roberts was thanked for her time and was asked to email her speech to the committee members.

40 Budget 2020/21

Prior to the conclusion of the debate on this item, and prior to the expiry of two and a half hours, the committee agreed in accordance with scrutiny committee procedure rule 35, to extend the meeting for a further period not exceeding 30 minutes.

The committee considered the interim head of finance's report on the revenue budget 2020/21 and capital programme to 2024/25. Councillor Turner, Cabinet member for finance, introduced the report. Also present to answer questions were Simon Hewings, Interim Head of Finance and Richard Spraggett, Senior Finance Business Partner. Several Cabinet portfolio holders were also present.

Cabinet's budget would be presented to Council on 13 February 2020.

In order to prioritise balancing the budget, savings had been made. Accountants worked with services to identify over £1 million in base budget savings.

The S151 Officer has signed off the 2020/21 budget as prudent and robust.

Committee members asked for clarifications, which were answered by officers, the Cabinet member for finance or the relevant Cabinet portfolio holder, who were invited to speak.

- In relation to New Home Bonus – this will potentially be replaced with another scheme and the budget has been prepared with this in mind. Assumed honoured amounts for the next four years.
- The budget cannot predict volume, for example, the number of benefits applicants, or the number of planning applications. The figures for planning were based on past volume and knowledge of future land that will be available for development.
- Budget savings have been carefully identified by officers. Vacant posts have been removed where there is no longer the need for the role. Services are performing well and savings have been identified where services were working at a level that extra staff would not create any improvement in service.

- Leisure facilities were discussed with the portfolio holder for community services, and these will be part of the leisure strategy review, to improve the income and social value of community facilities. The work will include creation of a working group and public consultation. Scrutiny requested that the portfolio holder for community services present a report to Scrutiny Committee, post task and finish group.
- The proposed budget included a transformation budget, to support achieving future financial sustainability and income generation ideas.

Other topics discussed were:

- Household waste – the proposed increase in the charge for a brown bin.
- The cost per dog litter bin collection has risen as the previous price was very below cost. Residents can use their black waste bins for dog litter. The cost of a regular household waste bin was requested.
- Listed properties and fuel costs. There should be energy advice available for people renting listed properties. Enforcing conditions versus enforcing planning law– changes are needed to legislation. The Climate Emergency Advisory Committee will be involved in this –planning regulations for illegal EPC energy rated properties.
- Interim Head of Finance confirmed that the budget report's inflation figures are consistent, 3.9% for staffing, as per contract, and future assumed at 2.7%
- The audit budget reduction is due to a previously overstated budget and is therefore a saving.
- Base budget saving – this is a budget correction, not a budget reduction.
- Neighbourhood Plans – these would still receive officer support but will be encouraged to seek other available funding streams, such as Localis.
- Budget set for potential new Local Plan.
- Potential merging of both South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils could generate savings.
- There is now more certainty regarding Capita costs that can be taken out.
- Confirmation that Air Quality is still in the budget.

The committee supported that the Cabinet recommend to Council to adopt a 5 year and 10 year financial strategy in time.

Scrutiny Committee considered and debated Cabinet's invitation, made at its meeting on 30 January 2020, to consider the following issues:

a) to maintain car park fees and charges at current levels pending a review later this year.

The committee made no recommendation in respect of car park fees and charges. A number of councillors expressed the view that the review should have already been undertaken with appropriate fees and charges included in the budget to address the car park deficit.

b) a reduction of the councillor grants budget from £180,000 to £90,000.

The committee discussed at length the proposed reduction in councillor grants budget. The following views were expressed:

- a possible gradual reduction and review of the grant;
- needs based grants;
- the potential for applicants to apply to capital grants instead;
- Scrutiny councillors strongly agreed that the grants were a vital link to their constituents – being able to help directly is positive.
- where there have been reductions proposed in other areas, the councillor grants reduction makes sense;
- A proposal was made that the councillor grants should remain at £180k (as part of the £500k grants budget, which comprises of £180k councillor grants (revenue scheme) and £320k communities capital grants scheme).

Officers were thanked for their hard work and the detailed report.

RESOLVED:

To recommend to Cabinet to retain the allocation of £500,000 to fund the Communities capital and revenue grant scheme.

41 Work schedule and dates for all South and Vale scrutiny meetings

The committee noted it's work programme and the following additional items:

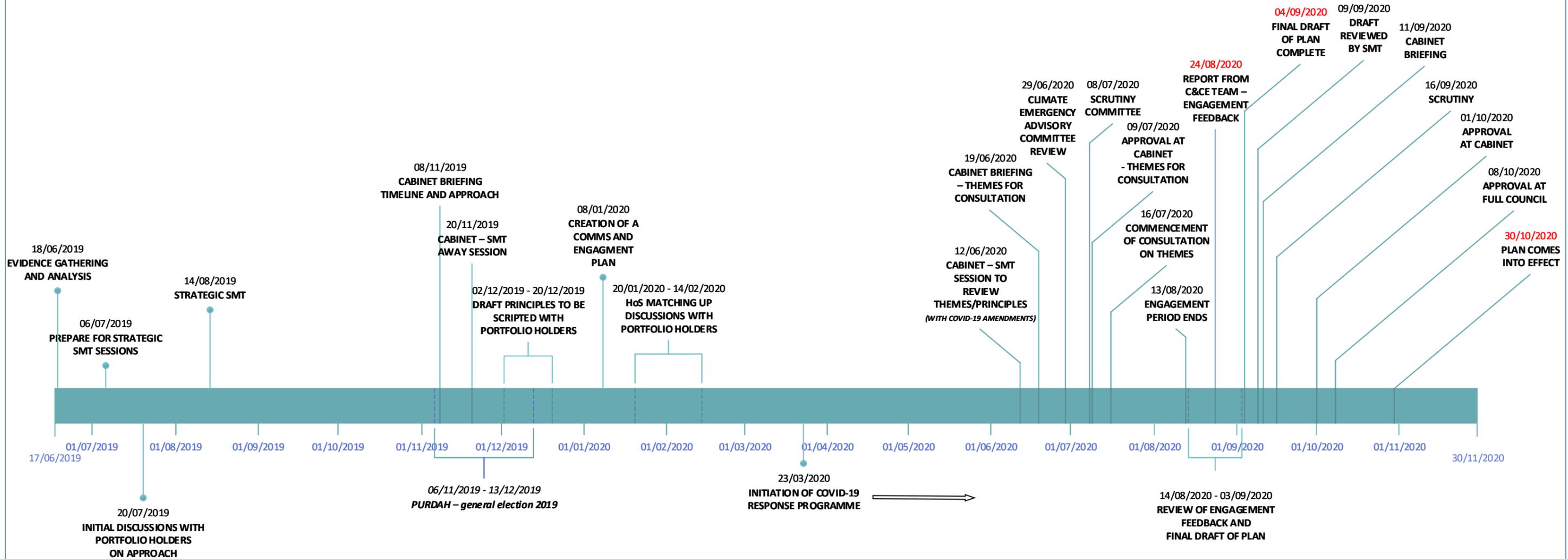
- Leisure Strategy Review and;
- Car parking fees and charges

The meeting closed at 9.08 pm

Chairman

Date

Corporate Plan timeline SODC June 2020



Scrutiny Committee



Report of Head of Corporate Services

Author: Michelle Wells

Telephone: 07917 088341

E-mail: michelle.wells@southandvale.gov.uk

Cabinet member responsible: Cllr. Andrea Powell

Tel: 07882 584120

E-mail: andrea.powell@southoxon.gov.uk

To: Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 8 July 2020

AGENDA ITEM

Development of the South Oxfordshire District Council Corporate Plan 2020-2024

Recommendation

Scrutiny Committee is asked to review the progress of and provide any recommendations on the development of the new South Oxfordshire District Council Corporate Plan 2020-24.

Purpose of Report

1. To brief Scrutiny Committee on the development of the new Corporate Plan 2020-24 and provide an opportunity for the Committee to make any recommendations on the proposed priority themes, illustrative projects, timescales for delivery, governance and engagement approach.

Strategic Objectives

2. A new Corporate Plan for the period 2020-2024 is required to establish a vision and priorities for the council.

Background

3. As a large organisation working in partnership with a variety of stakeholders, public, private and the community and voluntary sector, the vision and priorities are important in setting the strategic context for the execution and delivery of council business in accordance with Councillor intentions.
4. It is envisaged that the Corporate Plan will:
 - Establish the strategic direction for South Oxfordshire District Council for the period 2020-2024, informed by Councillors, Strategic Management Team (SMT), service areas, stakeholders and residents.
 - Provide a framework to align council work to priorities.
 - Target resources towards the priorities identified in the plan, aligning projects undertaken by the council to directly contribute to the delivery of the plan.
 - Enable plans, projects, policies, strategies and delivery to be tied into a 'golden thread' linking service and team performance to overall council performance.
 - Align staff objectives setting and appraisal system with the objectives of the Corporate Plan allowing all staff to understand how they as individual contributors help the whole organisation achieve its objectives.
 - Increase residents' awareness of the work the council is doing and what the council hopes to achieve.
5. During January and February 2020 Heads of Service and Cabinet Members met to discuss illustrative projects and actions that could contribute to the themes that had been identified as part of the Corporate Plan 2020-24. These were collated by the Insight and Policy Manager and an away day session planned for 18 March 2020. During the session it was planned that SMT and Cabinet Members were to prioritise which illustrative projects and actions to include and make plans for engagement. This session was subsequently cancelled as the council invoked business continuity measures to prevent the spread of Covid-19.
6. Cabinet Members continued to work on their themes and illustrative projects for inclusion into the Corporate Plan 2020-24 remotely to ensure they were ready to work at pace with officers on the development of the plan as work on the Councils Covid-19 Community Support Programme became more stable.
7. In June 2020 Cabinet Members and SMT came back together to review the themes and illustrative projects with any amendments to reflect the change in landscape. This resulted in an emerging consensus on themes and illustrative projects.
8. On 22 June 2020 the draft online survey to be used during engagement was shared with wider members by Councillor Andrea Powell to provide an early opportunity for them to feedback on the format, process and content. Feedback has been incorporated into the documents appended to this report.
9. The proposed Corporate Plan 2020-24 themes and illustrative projects were considered by the South Oxfordshire Climate Emergency Advisory Committee on 29 June to provide an opportunity for the Committee to make any recommendations to Cabinet on the contents with particular regard to Climate Change, a number of minor changes were requested and are reflected in the document appended to this report.

Themes

10. The proposed themes which have been identified by Cabinet members and informed by SMT which will form the basis of the Corporate Plan are:

- Theme 1: Homes and infrastructure that meet local needs.
- Theme 2: Improved economic and community wellbeing
- Theme 3: Action on the Climate Emergency
- Theme 4: Protection and restoration of our natural world
- Theme 5: Investment and innovation that rebuilds our financial viability
- Theme 6: Openness and accountability

11. Details of the illustrative projects which underpin each theme can be found in the appendix.

12. During the development of themes and illustrative projects for the Corporate Plan 2020-24, South Oxfordshire District Councillors have held discussions and exchanged thinking with Cabinet members from the Vale of White Horse District Council. It is recognised that as well as a shared workforce, there are some shared interests, although each Council will develop its own Plan based on its specific priorities and situations.

Scope of Engagement

13. Internal and external engagement on the Corporate Plan 2020-24 will help us to:

- Test out themes and illustrative projects.
- Convey the priorities and aspirations of the recently elected administration
- Better understand and respond to the needs of local people, staff, Councillors and businesses.
- Facilitate the district to be better informed about the councils work and encourage participation in local democratic decision making.
- Enable residents to influence their “place” which could harness the increased sense of community spirit and local resilience we have experienced since Covid-19.
- Increase transparency and be more accountable for what we do.

14. It is proposed that the framing of the Corporate Plan 2020-24 engagement is strong on the Covid-19 context and recovery, how the local government landscape is changing and addresses the financial challenges we face. It is also proposed we include that the development of the Corporate Plan 2020-24 is an incremental journey showcasing Councillor intentions and demonstrating progress so far with more detail on specific actions, projects and measures to follow.

15. It is recognised that engagement in this area previously has been low and we need to be balanced and proportionate in the approach. However, the Corporate Plan 2020-24 engagement presents a good opportunity to be creative and imaginative and respond to the Covid-19 landscape by using some different techniques that could potentially extend the councils reach and increase participation.

16. The Communications and Engagement Team scoped virtual options for engagement on the Corporate Plan 2020-24 and propose a campaign that comprises of an on-line survey and a series of short self-shot video clips from Cabinet Members talking to a theme. This virtual campaign will be used on our websites and could be shared on our social media pages for onward use.
17. The online survey shows the themes and illustrative projects and asks stakeholders to rank the importance of them. This will give Councillors a view on the priority of illustrative projects and could be important in the construction of programmes of work to deliver projects that are favoured in the public mind.
18. The survey will capture if responders believe anything to be missing from the Corporate Plan 2020-24 and confirm which words particularly resonate or if any were confusing to them. It will also differentiate between responders, so it is clear if the response is from a resident, Councillor or staff member.
19. Staff engagement will run in parallel to this and we will use all internal communication channels to promote the virtual campaign and encourage participation in the online survey. As the Corporate Plan 2020-24 will be the roadmap for staff in the delivery of their work we also plan to give consideration to a Q and A session which would provide an opportunity for staff to ask more detailed questions or provide feedback on the delivery of illustrative projects to inform Councillors thinking.
20. The primary audience for the engagement will be residents, staff and councillors. Particular focus will be given to using existing and new networks to push the engagement out further to businesses within the district, town and parish councils and community groups (including those involved in the Covid-19 Community Support Programme).
21. Consideration has been given to other engagements and events expected to be taking place in July such as for the Homes England Didcot Gateway site, South Oxfordshire Local Plan Examination and the further easing of Covid-19 restrictions for residents and businesses, which may impact the level of engagement. However, in order to maintain momentum, it is proposed that the engagement start on 16 July 2020 for a period of 4 weeks.

Timeline

22. A copy of the timeline for the development of the plan is attached. Key dates are as follows:
 - 9 July 2020 - Cabinet approve content for engagement.
 - 16 July to 13 August 2020 - Engagement to take place.
 - 16 September 2020 - Scrutiny Committee meeting to examine full draft plan.
 - 1 October 2020 - Cabinet meeting to approve plan.
 - 8 October 2020 – Full Council meeting to formally adopt plan.
 - 30 October 2020 – Plan comes into effect.

Financial Implications

23. There are no immediate financial implications associated with this report. As the Corporate Plan 2020-24 progresses and gets adopted it is likely that existing resources and budget will need to be redirected and refocused towards the outcomes within it. All future budget proposals will be subject to the usual democratic and scrutiny process.

Legal Implications

24. There are no legal implications arising from this report. Legal implications may arise in respect of individual projects as part of the future delivery of the Corporate Plan 2020-24.

Risks

25. The Corporate Plan 2020-24 will be a strategic document that will be underpinned by a series of programmes of work and projects. As the underpinning work progresses, risks will be detailed in individual project risk registers or captured in the corporate risk register and be subject to the usual democratic and scrutiny process.

26. It is anticipated that there will be a HM Government White Paper released in late summer detailing a new push for devolution and raised potential for further local government reorganisation which may impact the development of the Corporate Plan 2020-24.

Other Implications

27. There are no other implications arising from this report.

Conclusion

28. A new Corporate Plan for the period 2020-2024 is required to establish a vision and priorities for the council. It is envisaged that the development of this plan will support the alignment of resources to council priorities and increase residents' awareness of the work the council is doing and what the council hopes to achieve. A timeline has been developed to illustrate timescales for delivery, governance and the adoption.

29. A number of priority themes and illustrative projects have been developed by Cabinet Members informed by SMT, which will form the basis of a new Corporate Plan 2020-24. These have been refreshed and revised in light of the recent outbreak of Covid-19 and discussed with the Council's Climate Emergency Advisory Committee.

30. The proposed engagement presents a unique opportunity to be creative and imaginative and respond to the Covid-19 landscape by using some different techniques that could potentially extend the councils reach and increase participation.

Background Papers

- A copy of the on-line public consultation survey
<https://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/preview/XENM4O/ABA704AAE4B1AE1B50CB77E9CB3EA0>
- A copy of the timeline for the development of the plan.
- A copy of proposed Corporate Plan 2020-24 themes and illustrative projects.

Developing Thinking on the Corporate Plan 2020-24

Scrutiny Committee

8 July 2020

Cllr. Andrea Powell

- An opportunity for Committee to review the Cabinet's developing thinking on the Corporate Plan 2020-24 themes and illustrative projects and provide any recommendations to Cabinet in advance of any public engagement and Cabinet on 9th July.

Corporate Plan Format

Theme

Actions/Projects

Measures

Theme One

Homes and infrastructure that meet local needs

Why?

- The average price of a home is many times higher than the average salary, particularly for the young, and renting is also expensive. The pressure to build new homes in our district sometimes outweighs local wishes. Infrastructure – things like roads, schools and GP surgeries – have not kept up with housing development. Too many houses being built today are not fit for a low-carbon future.

So...

- We will strive to ensure that new homes and infrastructure in South Oxfordshire meet local needs, are sustainable, zero carbon in their build and operation and high quality in design. We will provide homes that people can afford to live in. New developments will be accessible with walking, cycling and public transport a priority. Neighbourhood plans and local participation will sit at the heart of our planning process. We will work with partners to ensure that development is appropriate for our communities.

Homes that people need

Illustrative Actions/Projects

Working constructively with local, regional and national partners we will shape and influence programmes to deliver appropriate homes and infrastructure, including:

- Didcot Garden Town priority projects as identified by the Advisory Board, specifically a sustainable plan to redevelop the Didcot Gateway site, a public transport and active walking and cycling network, community facilities and accessible green spaces for Didcot residents
- The transformation of Berinsfield into a thriving Garden Village with improved facilities that are developed in line with the community's needs and aspirations
- New council-owned homes with a focus on quality of design, affordability and local requirements
- Support and encouragement for the retrofit of our existing housing stock for low-carbon performance and to eliminate fuel poverty
- Elimination of homelessness in our District and bringing empty properties back into use

We will use the local plan policy development process and controls to ensure that:

- New homes are future-proofed, meeting the highest environmental standards and enhancing nature through sensitive, high quality design
- Spatial planning embeds public health, wellbeing and sustainability
- Changes over time in our stock of homes meet local needs
- Sustainable transport solutions prioritise walking, cycling and public transport to reduce car dependency and air pollution

Theme Two

Improved economic and community wellbeing

Why?

- South Oxfordshire has a large number of small and micro businesses, and is well placed to adapt to changes in the economy, but support will be needed for it to remain a healthy and vibrant place to live and work. The Coronavirus pandemic has shown the strength of the community but there are areas of isolation and deprivation in our district, and the benefits of access to culture, leisure and community for all has been made clear.

So...

- We will reimagine our high streets, helping **independent small businesses** to thrive and to encourage cultural well-being for all. We will encourage clean local economic development and support our **business hubs, centres of scientific excellence and our educational establishments** to become leaders in sustainable technology, innovation and enterprise. We will help our **community groups** to strengthen cohesion, reduce social isolation and tackle areas of deprivation.

Illustrative Actions/Projects

- Partner with regional agencies to ensure economic recovery, quality employment, thriving businesses and vibrant communities, avoiding the blight of “dormitory towns”
- Provide advice on access to grants, training and diversification programmes, helping local businesses to build agility and resilience
- Plan for communities connected by walking & cycling networks, with sustainable, accessible and affordable public transport and reliable Broadband, learning the lessons from the Covid-19 experience and enabling more home-working
- Launch a new community wellbeing strategy to encourage and support culture, leisure and the arts
- Use our planning powers to preserve our valuable green spaces, particularly in urban areas
- Work with our communities to maximise Community Infrastructure Levy funds and to allocate these to achieve best outcomes for residents in the District
- Take enforcement action on fly-tipping, dog fouling and other anti-social blights on our society
- Work with local partners to introduce civil parking enforcement as a district responsibility

Theme Three

Action on the Climate Emergency

Why?

- The greatest challenge we face as a society is the **Climate Emergency** and our ability to **adapt our lives and our behaviours** to ensure a safe and resilient future. While statements and targets are welcome, the challenge for our district is to take action, transform our operations and inspire our residents and businesses to do the same. Aspects of our lives will need to change, but we have a duty to make this transition fair for all parts of society.

So...

- We will show leadership by developing and implementing a climate change programme to make the council net carbon neutral by 2025. We will help our communities to plan a fair transition to a future that will be defined by climate change.

Illustrative Actions/Projects

- Achieve our own zero carbon target by 2025 and support others to achieve the district target of zero carbon by 2030
- Develop an annually approved climate emergency programme and adequately finance it
- Deliver Council-owned net-zero homes and use grants, planning policy and advocacy to ensure the same standards throughout the district
- Promote and encourage behavioural change with informational campaigns and leading by example
- Take positive action on single-use plastics, air quality improvement measures and sustainable transport
- Mitigate climate change through planning and land use, enhancing biodiversity on our own land and strengthening the planning system to enforce environmental standards
- Promote the circular economy (reduce, re-use and recycle), including in our waste management contracts
- Support and encourage local businesses to respond to climate change and nature recovery
- Promote waste minimisation initiatives such as Repair Cafés
- Work with Oxfordshire County Council to build on our commitment to active travel and cycling infrastructure

Theme Four

Protect and restore our natural world

Why?

- South Oxfordshire is a largely rural district, including parts of two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Oxford green belt, as well as a long stretch of the River Thames. The natural world is proven to provide benefits to both mental and physical health, as well as having its own intrinsic value, and it needs our protection.

So...

- We will **respect and protect our natural environment**, especially our Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and other nature-rich areas. We will champion the **opportunity to restore our natural world** in both biodiverse and bio-depleted areas through nature recovery networks and other means. We will connect urban communities to their **local green spaces** and restore nature to urban environments.

Illustrative Actions/Projects

- With partners, promote in-depth mapping and surveying of ecosystems across the district, planning for restoration of the natural world and working closely with land-owners and specialist agencies
- Celebrate, protect and enhance our natural assets, including the River Thames and the AONBs and their setting, promoting our rural district for tourism, leisure and wellbeing
- Encourage the use of natural processes to combat risks arising from climate change, such as meadows and trees to reduce flooding
- Recognise and support the vital role of farming in economic and ecosystem resilience, local food provision and the recovery of soils and natural processes
- Call for the establishment of a Local Nature Partnership for Oxfordshire to promote an ambitious nature recovery programme, including tree and meadow planting, rewilding and providing habitats for wildlife
- Work in partnership with the Earth Trust, Chilterns Conservation Board, North Wessex Downs AONB and others to improve access to green spaces in and around our towns, reinforcing access to nature as a priority for community wellbeing

Theme Five

Investment and innovation that rebuilds our financial viability

Why?

- Coronavirus has cost, and lost, the Council money. Many years of austerity before that, as well as a failure to increase council tax in line with growing costs, makes it hard to balance the books. The future funding picture for councils from Government remains unclear. In order to deliver a **progressive and ambitious agenda**, we need to reduce the gap between income and expenditure in our Medium Term Financial Plan.

So...

- We will invest to save and act responsibly and ethically with our financial resources. We will work with other councils for fair funding and will investigate new viable sources of revenue in order to maintain and improve vital services. We will ensure all financial operations and reporting support effective decision-making and strong, ethical governance.

**Investment that
rebuilds our
financial viability**

Illustrative Actions/Projects

- Develop and implement an innovative Transformation Strategy to diversify our revenue streams, improve our effectiveness and secure our on-going viability
- “Invest to save” for the District, including the delivery of sustainable new Council offices – on time and within budget – to realise future operational efficiencies
- Exercise strong Stewardship of all Council assets including property and financial investments, optimising their performance for the benefit of our residents
- Maximise external funding opportunities to support our services and to enrich our leisure, sporting and community activities
- Invest responsibly and ethically with the Climate Emergency at the heart of what we do

Theme Six

Openness and accountability

Why?

- The complexity of modern society and local government structures can be hard to navigate. Many services are delivered as part of external partnerships, so it can be hard for residents to see what we do and how we do it. There are some groups within our District with whom we have little engagement or interaction, so the diversity of our district is not always recognised and supported.

So...

- We will maintain and improve **high levels of satisfaction** with the services we provide and will reach out to all sectors and age-groups to foster a culture of openness and participation. We will use our influence to champion **inclusion, diversity and transparency** across all elected and unelected bodies in our region. We will **empower and invest in our staff** and conduct our operations with the highest level of **integrity and accountability**.

Illustrative Actions/Projects

- Enhance trust and accountability in democratic decision-making, including live-streaming and recording of meetings, ensuring full accessibility of facilities and monitoring progress in an open and transparent way
- Ensure that council departments work collaboratively to deliver best outcomes for residents
- Embed an organisational culture that celebrates diversity, inclusion and respect
- Apply good governance and transparency in all our working and decision-making, exploring optimal structures and mechanisms for best practice in local government
- Engage effectively with residents, Parish and Town Councils and other community organisations, using plain English in our communications and using appropriate methods and technologies to ensure equal and fair access for all

Scrutiny work programme

1 July 2020



Listening Learning Leading

MEETING	AGENDA ITEM	PURPOSE	CABINET MEMBER	CONTACT OFFICER
Scrutiny Committee 8 Jul 2020	Review and comment on the draft corporate plan 2020-2024 and delivery framework for public consultation	To comment on the draft corporate plan and delivery framework	Andrea Powell	Michelle Wells, michelle.wells@southandvale.gov.uk
Scrutiny Committee 27 Jul 2020	Planning monitoring report	To review the annual report	Anne-Marie Simpson	Richard Sandith richard.sandith@southandvale.gov.uk
Scrutiny Committee Between 1 Sep 2020 and 31 Dec 2020	Delivery of Affordable Housing and options for a housing delivery vehicle	To receive a progress report	Robin Bennett	Jayne Bolton jayne.bolton@southandvale.gov.uk
Scrutiny Committee Between 1 Oct 2020 and 30 Nov 2020	Car parking fees		David Rouane	John Backley John.backley@southandvale.gov.uk
Scrutiny Committee November 2020	Civil parking enforcement		David Rouane	John Backley john.backley@southandvale.gov.uk

MEETING	AGENDA ITEM	PURPOSE	CABINET MEMBER	CONTACT OFFICER
Scrutiny Committee November 2020	South Oxfordshire Local Plan		Anne-Marie Simpson	Emma Baker emma.baker@southandvale.gov.uk
Items for future meetings (dates to be determined)				
Scrutiny Committee September 2020	Community infrastructure levy spending strategy	To consider the strategy	Robin Bennett	Jayne Bolton jayne.bolton@southandvale.gov.uk
Joint Scrutiny Committee 21 Sep 2020	Biffa annual performance report		Cabinet member for housing and environment, and Didcot Garden Town	Ian Matten ian.matten@southandvale.gov.uk
Joint Scrutiny Committee 21 Sep 2020	Community safety partnership annual report		Cabinet member for housing and environment, and Didcot Garden Town	Liz Hayden liz.hayden@southandvale.gov.uk
Joint Scrutiny Committee Between 21 Sep 2020 and 31 Dec 2020	Saba car park contract		Cabinet member for housing and environment, and Didcot Garden Town	Liz Hayden liz.hayden@southandvale.gov.uk
Scrutiny Committee	Planning appeals 2018/19	To consider the annual report	Anne-Marie Simpson	Tracy Smith tracy.smith@southandvale.gov.uk

MEETING	AGENDA ITEM	PURPOSE	CABINET MEMBER	CONTACT OFFICER
Joint Scrutiny Committee	Oxfordshire Plan 2050	To respond to the consultation draft plan	Anne-Marie Simpson	Adrian Duffield adrian.duffield@southandvale.gov.uk
Scrutiny Committee Meeting Date	Leisure strategy review		Maggie Filipova-Rivers	
Scrutiny Committee Meeting Date	Regular budget monitoring		Leigh Rawlins	Simon Hewings simon.hewings@southandvale.gov.uk
Scrutiny Committee Meeting Date	Strategic property review		Robin Bennett	Suzanne Malcolm suzanne.malcolm@southandvale.gov.uk
Scrutiny Committee November 2020	New office accommodation	To review progress against the programme and budget	Andrea Powell	Adrianna Partridge adrianna.partridge@southandvale.gov.uk
Joint Scrutiny Committee November 2020	Didcot Garden Town - project update		Pieter-Paul Barker	Marybeth Harasz marybeth.harasz@southandvale.gov.uk
Joint Scrutiny Committee November 2020	Oxfordshire Growth Board - review outcome		Sue Cooper	Andrew Down andrew.down@southandvale.gov.uk
Scrutiny Committee September 2020	Didcot Gateway		Robin Bennett	

MEETING	AGENDA ITEM	PURPOSE	CABINET MEMBER	CONTACT OFFICER
Scrutiny Committee Between 1 Jul 2020 and 31 Dec 2020	Transformation reviews		Andrea Powell	
Scrutiny Committee 25 Jan 2021	Delivery of crematorium, graveyard or alternative provision	To review provision over next 20 years within the district	Robin Bennett	Suzanne Malcolm suzanne.malcolm@south andvale.gov.uk

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