

Report to: Cabinet



Date of Meeting 2 December 2020

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

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## Statement of intent

### Report summary:

This report contains the Council's Statement of Intent and a timetable for the preparation of a new Council Plan.

### Recommendation:

To approve the Statement of Intent and the timetable for preparation of a Council Plan for the period Summer 2021 to Spring 2023.

### Reason for recommendation:

To progress the development of the Council Plan

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Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- ☐ Climate Action
- ☐ Coast, Country and Environment
- ☒ Corporate Services and COVID-19 Response and Recovery
- ☒ Democracy and Transparency
- ☐ Economy and Assets
- ☐ Finance
- ☐ Policy Co-ordination and Regional Engagement
- ☐ Strategic Planning
- ☐ Sustainable Homes and Communities

### Financial implications:

The Statement of intent does signal the priorities and direction the Council is going to take which Strategic/Service Leads have started to reflect in Service Plans and through the budget process which members will debate in January and February 2021. It is however the 2022/23 budget year led by a new Council Plan where more fundamental changes are likely combined with need to address the budget gap outlined in the Finance Plan recently adopted by Council.

### Legal implications:

The Council Plan forms part of the Policy Framework and therefore its adoption, whether interim or full, is ultimately a decision for Council. However, this report is seeking early member feedback to

input into the evolution of the Council Plan and therefore is a decision that can remain with the Cabinet.

**Equalities impact** Low Impact

**Climate change** Low Impact

**Risk:** Low Risk; A failure to have a robust Council Plan would impact on the strategic planning for our services

**Links to background information** [Statement of Intent](#)

**Link to [Council Plan](#):**

Priorities (check which apply)

- ☒ Outstanding Place and Environment
  - ☒ Outstanding Homes and Communities
  - ☒ Outstanding Economic Growth, Productivity, and Prosperity
  - ☒ Outstanding Council and Council Services
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## Report in full

The Covid-19 pandemic has presented a huge challenge to the district of East Devon and since March 2020 the Council has focused on responding to the emergency. The Council has delivered and helped facilitate a wide range of support to our most vulnerable during this difficult time.

As a consequence of this the traditional timing for the preparation/revision of the Council's Plan has required some revision. As we look towards a successful vaccination programme in 2021, the ambition of the new administration is that the Council will focus its efforts on delivering to new priorities and preparing a new and inclusive Council Plan representing a one team approach.

The priorities which feature in the Statement of Intent, and which will inform the new Council Plan are informed by a greater respect for the environment through a recognition of a climate change emergency together with a belief that there should be decent homes and decent jobs for all. Fundamentally the Council's services must continue to deliver what matters to our residents and businesses in east Devon. The ambition is for the Council to be one that cares and delivers on its commitments. The Council will be properly accountable, transparent and better representative of the diverse communities in east Devon. It is also proposed that where necessary the Council will lobby government for changes in policy and funding so we can implement our priorities. The intention is for the new administration leaves to leave a positive legacy and the Statement of Intent confirms that commitment'.

## Council Plan Timetable

Step	Start	Finish
Statement of Intent	November 2020	December 2020
First Draft Council Plan	January 2021	
Cabinet/SMT+ Consideration	February 2021	February 2021
Member Workshops and Public Engagement	March 2021	May 2021
Overview/Scrutiny Committee	June 2021	
Cabinet adoption	June 2021	
Council adoption	July 2021	
Final Version of Plan Published	July 2021	

Graphics and design takes place post adoption