

Report to: Cabinet



Date of Meeting 10 April 2024

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Council Plan 2024-2028

Report summary:

This report is provided for Cabinet to review and agree the new Council Plan 2024-2028

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

- 1) that Cabinet agree the council plan 2024-2028 including its actions and measures and recommends its approval to Council.
- 2) that Cabinet give delegated authority to the Director of Finance in consultation with the Portfolio Holder Council and Corporate Co-ordination to make any minor changes to the text as required prior to submission to Full Council.
- 3) that Cabinet consider and agree the frequency of monitoring of the actions and measures set out on the plan.

Reason for recommendation:

To progress the Council Plan to the final stage of agreement and provide clarity as to the ongoing monitoring of the actions from the plan.

Officer: Simon Davey, Director of Finance (CFO/S151) & Interim Chief Executive (shared Role),
sdavey@eastdevon.gov.uk

Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action and Emergency Response
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- Communications and Democracy
- Economy
- Finance and Assets
- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities
- Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism

Equalities impact Low Impact

Climate change Low Impact

Risk: Medium Risk; The council needs to have a strategic framework in place to assist delivery of its priorities and goals for the next four years.

Links to background information [Appendix A – Council Plan 2024-2028](#), [Appendix B consultation feedback report](#).

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- Better homes and communities for all
 - A greener East Devon
 - A resilient economy
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Report in full

1. Background to the council plan

The purpose of the council plan is to provide a strategic framework for the council to deliver projects and services. The new plan has been developed over the last six months through a series of supported workshops with stakeholders, Councillors and senior officers. Through the workshops a series of priorities and actions were suggested. All of the feedback has been prioritised and assessed by senior officers for cost and deliverability the outcome of which is presented at [appendix A - Council Plan 2024-28](#).

A copy of the draft plan was also provided to the Peer Challenge and feedback was sought. The following feedback has been provided by the peer team and we have sought to review the plan in light of their comments.

Peer challenge feedback:

2.4 Streamline the actions in your new Council Plan

As the council's new Council Plan is developing, further prioritise the number of actions that sit under the four themes in the new Council Plan to and delegate to and empower staff within the organisation to deliver those actions across the life of the plan.

4.1 Local priorities and outcomes

EDDC adopted a council plan in 2021 with a vision for the following three years to make a positive difference to residents' lives and the environment in East Devon.

A new council plan is now in development following consultation with councillors, officers, stakeholders and residents. The priorities are clear and work well. They continue the three themes from the previous plan, in short, 'Better Homes and Communities for all', 'A Greener East Devon' and 'A Resilient Economy bringing Prosperity to the district'. There is an additional theme included in the new council plan around the 'Delivery of Quality Services'. Traditionally EDDC has been one of the better performing and more outwardly looking councils in Devon and the addition of this theme confirms the council's ambition to overcome the more recent challenges and return to being a top performing council.

A draft of the plan was shared with the peer team. It currently includes 52 actions and 100 measures. This number will be difficult to manage effectively, and the peer team recommend that the actions and measures should be streamlined based on deliverability and priority, or at least profiled over the four years of the plan.

Following the feedback from the workshops and the Peer Challenge the list of actions has been reviewed by the Directors and Assistant directors and the number cut back from 52 to 45 and the actions have been updated with measures and timeframes and responsible officers assigned to deliver and monitor the actions. Those actions that have been removed have been in the most part agreed as part of business as usual or included as an action within a service plan.

The council recently consulted on the new council plan and is aiming to provide an evaluation of the responses received, if and how the council plan is altered in line with feedback. This will demonstrate the council's intention to engage rather than communicate so that residents can be confident that the council is listening and proactively seeking views.

The public consultation that was undertaken was primarily focused on the four main priorities of which we had board support for with at least 72% of responders agreeing with. An overview of the consultation responses can be found at [appendix B](#). As part of the publicity for the new plan we will be feeding back the outcome of the consultation and the impact of this on the development of the plan.

2. Current draft plan

The final version of the plan at [appendix A](#) has been reviewed by senior officers within the council and is submitted for Cabinet to approve and/or make suggestion for change. With Cabinet's support if there are any minor changes that are required the Director of Finance will work in consultation with the Portfolio Holder Council and Corporate Co-ordination to ensure that those changes are made prior to submission to full council.

3. Future monitoring of the plan actions and measures

The current draft if agreed contains 45 actions against which there are measures and outcomes that need to be monitored over the lifetime of the plan. The current performance monitoring tool in place is SPAR.net which has some limitations in reporting. The Digital and Data team are looking at how we might in the short term link the system with Power BI to improve reporting and reviewing as well as meeting with some suppliers of other systems to see if a new performance monitoring tool will better meet our needs.

For the coming financial year, we would like to propose that there is monitoring of the council plan actions and measures each quarter and that this is reported to Cabinet for their oversight. Scrutiny will also expect to see some performance reporting again we would recommend that this is sent to that committee quarterly.

Financial implications:

Careful consideration has been given the financial position in the development of the Council Plan, there is no direct financial budget request with this report and resources for delivery are currently in place or subject to existing budgets. There are however some action plans being developed as part of the overall objectives or future objectives that may have financial implications not identified at this stage, there are also objectives that will require external funding or partnership delivery which will be outside the direct control of the Council.

Legal implications:

There are no substantive legal issues to add to the report.