

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

TO: Babergh Cabinet	REPORT NUMBER: BCa/23/18
FROM: Leader of Council – Cllr Dave Busby	DATE OF MEETING: 03/10/2023
OFFICER: Arthur Charvonia – Chief Executive Officer	KEY DECISION REF NO. CAB447

CORPORATE PLAN REFRESH

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Council is refreshing its Corporate Plan in line with the new political term and new challenges that face the district. The previous Corporate Plan was adopted in 2019, and there are new challenges and opportunities the district needs to address. This refreshed plan will consider new priorities the Council is seeking to deliver over the next eight-year period.

2. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Options considered include:

- 2.1.1 Do nothing: proceeding without reviewing strategic priorities. This was not considered feasible as there are new challenges for our districts that the Council needs to respond to.
- 2.1.2 Refreshing the strategic priorities without engaging our stakeholders. This was not considered a suitable option as the refreshed plan would lack valuable insight from the stakeholders the plan is working to improve the district for.
- 2.1.3 Approaching our stakeholders with a 'blank sheet of paper' to determine what our priorities should be, but this was considered likely to lead to less meaningful engagement.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To endorse engagement on the emerging vision and strategic priorities as set out in Appendix A.

REASON FOR DECISION

To enable the progression of the refresh of the Corporate Plan.

4. KEY INFORMATION

- 4.1 The refreshed Corporate Plan will set out the new vision and strategic priorities of the Council. To develop the vision and these priorities the Council wants to engage with our communities, businesses, stakeholders and partners.

- 4.2 The State of the District Report for Babergh was considered at Full Council in September, which set out an overview of Babergh using data and insight. This forms part of the evidence-base underpinning this Corporate Plan refresh, identifying the challenges facing the district.
- 4.3 This report outlines the vision and strategic priorities (Appendix A) and sets out the intention to engage our communities, businesses, partners and other stakeholders on the refreshed strategic priorities between October to November 2023 for six weeks.
- 4.4 There will be opportunity to engage on the vision and strategic priorities for everyone. We will be approaching groups that represent seldom heard voices in our communities to ensure we hear from everyone and not just those who are more established in engaging with our Council. We will be working with the voluntary community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector as well as our businesses, partners, Town and Parish Councils and our own staff to explore these strategic priorities.

5. LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN

- 5.1 The recommendation is to enable progression of the refresh of the Corporate Plan. Whilst the refresh is linked to the previous Corporate Plan, it will review strategic priorities.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

At present, as the proposals are only to consult on emerging strategic priorities there are no financial implications. The budget will be consulted upon alongside the corporate plan refresh, to be presented to Council in February 2024. Financial implications of the finalised Corporate Plan will be considered at the Council meeting when it is presented for consideration.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no legal implications from this report.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 Key risks are set out below:

Key Risk Description	Likelihood 1-4	Impact 1-4	Key Mitigation Measures	Risk Register and Reference*
The Councils may not have the capacity to respond to member demands in 2023/24	3	2	Agree refreshed corporate plan, including priorities and outcomes for both councils	SRR011
The joint arrangement between the	2	4	Joint Member briefings	SRR012

two Councils could cease				
Babergh District Council may be unable to react in a timely and effective way to financial demands	3	3	Monitoring and reporting of financial forecast Capital reserves SLT position review workshops Cabinet briefings to review position and budget options Budget approval Internal and external audits	SRRR004BDC
Failure to deliver a revised corporate strategy	3	4	Corporate plan outline and timetable agreed with PLG and SLT in March. Initial conversations with services to identify opportunities for engagement.	Strategic Policy ORR009

**Name of risk register where risk is currently documented and being actively managed and it's reference number*

9. CONSULTATIONS

9.1 Consultation has taken place with Directors and further consultation will take place with all staff and stakeholders as outlined in the above report.

10. EQUALITY ANALYSIS

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has not been completed at this stage as the paper only considers emerging priorities to be considered through further engagement. Further EIA will be required on the final plan. The engagement proposed seeks to work with groups that represent seldom heard voices, which includes groups representing those with protected characteristics.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no environmental implications although through the emerging strategic priorities identified there is an opportunity to address environmental issues through the refreshed Corporate Plan.

12. APPENDICES

Title	Location
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(a) Appendix A – emerging Vision and Strategic Priorities	Attached
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13. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

13.1 None.

14. REPORT AUTHOR

Jo Hobbs – Corporate Manager – Strategic Policy