

Report for: Council

Date of Meeting: 25th February 2021

Subject: Council Borough Plan including the Draft Corporate Plan

Responsible Officer: Sean Harriss
Chief Executive

Portfolio Holder Cllr Graham Henson – Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, Regeneration, Partnerships, Devolution and Customer Services

Exempt: Yes

Wards affected: All.

Enclosures: None

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

Council approved an updated Borough Plan in November 2020 and with it an updated set of the Corporate Priorities. This report recommends to Council that the Plan approved in November and the set of Priorities remain unchanged for the 2021/22 year.

Recommendations:

Council is recommended to:

- (1) Agree that the Borough Plan approved by Council in November 2020 remains as the Corporate Plan for the Council in the 2021/22 year;
- (2) that the Corporate Priorities approved by Council in November 2020 remain as the Corporate Priorities for the 2021/22 year and that all Council activity be driven by this set of Corporate Priorities;
- (3) responsibility be delegated back to Cabinet for approving the Council Delivery Plan in due course following the end of the Covid Emergency (which would set out the Council's shorter-term contribution and performance measures for delivery of the Corporate Plan [Borough Plan]); and
- (4) that the final Borough Plan 2021-2030 be submitted to Council for approval once consultation can be undertaken with the Harrow community.

Section 2 – Report

Council approved the updated Borough Plan in November 2020, which took account of the Council's response to the Covid Emergency as well as the response to Black Lives Matter and the introduction of a new cross cutting priority on racial disproportionality.

The Council approved the draft Borough Plan in February 2020 which set out the partnership view for Harrow as a borough and eight key priorities that contribute towards an overarching theme of tackling socio-economic inequality and disadvantage in order to continue to make Harrow a better place for all of our residents and businesses.

There are three priorities, which form the foundations for addressing our vision, where we seek to maintain the standard of current provision. These are:

1. Sustaining quality education and training
2. Celebrating communities and cohesion
3. Maintaining low crime levels and improving community safety

There are then five priorities where there are significant challenges to deliver the desired outcomes:

4. Improving the environment and addressing climate change
5. Tackling poverty and inequality
6. Building homes and infrastructure
7. Addressing health and social care inequality
8. Thriving economy

In November Council agreed to amend the Borough Plan to add in a new overarching priority on tackling racial disproportionality to sit alongside the existing overarching priority of the Plan which is to address socio-economic inequality and disadvantage. The plan was also amended to reference the impact and difference Covid had and cross-reference the Council's Recovery Plan.

Implications of the Recommendation

There are no implications of these recommendations over and above what was approved by Council in November 2020.

Risk Management Implications

Risk included on corporate risk register? No
Separate risk register in place? No

Most delivery against the Borough Plan priorities is heavily reliant on the budget position over the next 2-3 years and the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review. If the outcome is not positive for the council there will be a risk to delivery.

The on-going public health emergency will pose a significant risk to delivery in terms of limiting our ability to undertake engagement activity and diverting resource and capacity away

Legal Implications

Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council in the exercise of its functions to have due regard to the need to:

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other form of conduct prohibited under the act; and,
- (b) to advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender re-assignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex, and sexual orientation) and persons who do not share it.

Having regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- (a) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- (b) take steps to meet the needs of the persons who share that characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it; and,
- (c) encourage persons of the relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on the council to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent:

- (a) crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment);
- (b) the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area; and
- (c) re-offending in its area.

Financial Implications

All financial implications were taken account of in the November 2020 Cabinet and Council reports. As this report is to re-confirm the Borough Plan and Corporate Priorities approved in 2020, there are no additional initiatives and therefore no budget implications not already considered in the Medium Term Financial Strategy being approved at Council on the same agenda as this report.

Performance Issues

The Borough Plan will lead to a refresh of the performance framework as the new priorities are developed and agreed for the borough. We will continue work to re-cast the measures and targets under the eight priorities and identify new and appropriate performance measures for the new additions which will feed into a fully refreshed performance framework to be implemented in 2021 and the Council's Delivery Plan, subject to the end of the Covid emergency.

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

The Borough Plan with the additional cross cutting priority and additional focus on tackling racial disproportionality as well as socio-economic inequality and disadvantage will support delivery of our equalities duties across the borough by enabling us to publish in the Borough Plan the latest data we have on protected characteristics in the borough and our Corporate Equality Objectives, as required by the Public Sector Equalities Duty.

Whilst there is much that can be done working in partnership across the borough, there are many aspects of addressing inequality that cannot be driven purely within Harrow: in these instances we will work with and lobby others to support delivery of our bold plans.

Ward Councillors' comments

The Borough Plan affects all wards and proposals have been developed with full engagement of all Cabinet members.

Council Priorities

This report contributes towards all Council priorities.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Statutory Officer: Dawn Calvert

Signed by the Chief Financial Officer

Date: 17 February 2021

Statutory Officer: Hugh Peart

Signed by the Monitoring Officer

Date: 15 February 2021

Chief Officer: Sean Harriss

Chief Executive

Date: 12 February 2021

Mandatory Checks

Ward Councillors notified: NO, as it impacts on all Wards

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Alex Dewsnap, Director of Strategy and Partnerships

Background Papers:

- The Borough Plan approved at Council in November 2020