

Title of report: Delivery Plan 2023-24 and 2024-28 County Plan Development

Meeting: Scrutiny Management Board

Meeting date: 21 November 2023

Report by: Director of Strategy and Performance

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

(All Wards)

Purpose

To consider the delivery plan for 2023/24 and to receive an update on the development of the county plan 2024-2028.

Recommendation(s)

That:

- a) Scrutiny Management Board note the content of this report;**
- b) provide views and any recommendations it wishes to make on the emerging themes of the Delivery Plan 2023/24 which is attached at Appendix A; and**
- c) convene a task and finish group during December 2023 to provide views and any recommendations on the draft County Plan 2024-2028.**

Alternative options

1. The board could chose not to scrutinise the delivery plan 2023/24 and to receive an update on the development of the County Plan. This is not recommended as the scrutiny management board has a responsibility to scrutinise areas which are cross cutting nature. The county and delivery plan are central underpinnings to the Corporate Strategy.

Key considerations

Delivery Plan 2023/24

2. The County Plan 2020-24, alongside the Medium Term Financial Strategy, provides the overarching policy framework within which decisions will be taken and resources allocated over the next four years. The County Plan 2020-24 was developed through a process of engagement and consultation with the public and key stakeholders and was agreed at Council on 14 February 2020. It sets out the key strategic ambitions for the county and the success measures which will be used to monitor progress.
3. The Delivery Plan identifies the key programmes of work that will progress the ambitions within the County Plan, set against the ambitions of Economy, Community and Environment. Each of the projects and deliverables contributes to one, if not more of the objectives set in the County Plan.
4. On 21 November 2023, Cabinet will be considering the Delivery Plan for 2023/24. A copy of the report and appendices are attached at Appendix 1.

County Plan 2024-28

5. A County Plan for 2024-2028 is in development and is due to be presented to Council at its meeting on 8 February 2024.
6. The timetable for production of the Plan is:

Group	Date	Purpose / Comments
CLT		Seek approval for agreed approach and timeline for the County Plan
Cabinet working group		To consider future state of the county and priorities/ambitions
Cabinet workshop	16/11/23	Confirm priorities and structure of plan
Cabinet workshop	24/11/23	Workshop to develop the deliverables and delivery plan
Cabinet workshop	30/11/23	Confirm the draft plan, ambitions and delivery plan
Final draft ready for consultation	06/12/23	Final draft to be approved for circulation
Presuming budget work + consultation will happen in this time		
Impact Consultancy	02/12/23	Consultation report
Scrutiny committees, group leaders, members	04/12/23-14/12/23	Socialisation of plan
Full council briefing	18/12/23	Full council briefing on plan
Cabinet workshop	21/12/23	Feedback engagement and consultation information for suggested changes and updates
CLT for final sign off	02/01/24	Final plan approval
Cabinet briefing	04/01/24	Final plan approval
Full Council Briefing	08/01/24	Full council briefing on plan
Cabinet feeder	11/01/24	Cabinet feeder ahead of cabinet
Scrutiny Management Board	16/01/24	Scrutiny consideration and recommendations (aligned with budget)
	17/01/24	Block out to focus on recommendations
Cabinet	25/01/24	Approval of plan
Full Council	09/02/24	Approval of plan with budget

Community impact

7. The County Plan 2020-24 and supporting Delivery Plan, take into account the key characteristics of Herefordshire, as outlined in Understanding Herefordshire (the council's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment). Factors such as Herefordshire's rurality, the aging population profile and social mobility for our young people, all have impacts on individuals, our communities and provide challenges for service delivery. These challenges are recognised and are the key drivers at the heart of the County Plan 2020-24 and associated Delivery Plan.

Environmental impact

8. There are no specific environmental impacts arising from this report.

Equality duty

9. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –

- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
10. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. As part of the decision making process, individual directorates and service areas must assess the potential of any proposed project, leading to fairer, transparent and informed decisions being made.

Resource implications

11. There are no direct resource implications arising from this report which is for information and discussion.

Legal implications

12. The council is required to deliver a scrutiny function. The development of a work programme which is focused and reflects those priorities facing Herefordshire will assist the committee and the council to deliver a scrutiny function.
13. The Scrutiny Rules in Part 4 Section 5 of the Council's constitution provide for the setting of a work programme, the reporting of recommendations to the executive and the establishment of task and finish groups within the committee's agreed work programme.

Risk management

14. There are no direct risk arising from this report which is for information and discussion. Details of the risks associated with the Delivery Plan 2023/24 are contained within the Cabinet Report which is attached at Appendix 1.

Consultees

None.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Cabinet Report: Delivery Plan 2023/2024
Appendix A: Delivery Plan 2023/24

Background papers

None identified.