

## **POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**21 FEBRUARY 2019**

### **COMMUNITY PLAN 2019 - 23**

#### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide members with an opportunity to comment on the final draft of a new Community Plan with a view to recommending the same to Full Council for adoption.

#### **2.0 Background Information**

- 2.1 Following a change in political and managerial leadership, the Council's current Corporate Plan has been reviewed and refreshed. In part, this is in response to a renewed focus on the 'Cleaner, Safer, Greener' agenda and also in recognition of the need for greater clarity and understanding about what the Council is trying to achieve – one of the recommendations of the 2016 Peer Review.
- 2.2 The development of the revised objectives included within the plan commenced during September 2018 and since that time have been updated and refined following consultation with a range of stakeholders including, lead members (Chairs of Committees), members of the Senior Leadership Team and Business Managers.
- 2.3 The Vision and Values for the Council have also been reviewed and updated to better reflect the Council's purpose and make clear: what we are here to do; and how we will go about it.
- 2.4 The Council also undertook a consultation exercise with residents and other key stakeholders between October and December 2018 so that findings from the survey could be used to sense check the objectives included with the Corporate Plan and where appropriate refine/amend these. Feedback has also been used to prioritise activities under each of the objectives. Further details in relation to the findings from the survey and how this has been used to shape the Council's objectives is covered elsewhere on the agenda.

#### **3.0 Proposals**

- 3.1 Rather than refer to the document as a Corporate Plan, it is proposed to be named Newark and Sherwood's Community Plan. A copy of the final draft is attached to this report as Appendix A. This better reflects the largely outward facing nature of the plan and acknowledges that its delivery is not something that the Council can achieve on its own.
- 3.2 The opportunity has been taken to revisit not only what the Council is aiming to achieve (its objectives) but also its core purpose and values. It is crucial that these are brought to life within in the organisation, impacting in a very real and practical way that we serve the local community and interact with each other and with partners.
- 3.2.1 ***Our Purpose:*** Newark and Sherwood already has much to be proud of. A captivating history, beautiful countryside, characterful market towns, world renowned businesses and an enviable location at the crossroads of the country's transportation network. We want to do all that we can to enable local residents and businesses to flourish and fulfil their

*potential as well as encouraging more visitors to enjoy all that Newark and Sherwood has to offer. In order to achieve these, we will be locally focused and nationally connected – driven by what matters most to the people we serve and with a perspective and relationships stretching well beyond our boundaries.*

### 3.2.2 **Our Values:**

- Ambitious and Forward thinking (focused on achieving the very best and always looking to improve and innovate);
- Caring and compassionate (sensitive to the different needs and circumstances of others; seeks to empower people to fulfil their potential);
- Commercial and business-like (careful and creative with resources; securing value for money);
- Professional and trustworthy (consistently delivering on promises; providing good quality and demonstrating integrity);
- Welcoming and responsive (approachable, open to feedback and challenge and swift to act).

3.3 The plan has been developed around addressing the needs of our communities and includes eleven objectives underpinned by supporting actions. A summary of the objectives has been included below:

- Improve the cleanliness and appearance of the local environment;
- Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, and increase feelings of safety in our communities;
- Improve transport infrastructure to reduce congestion and facilitate growth;
- Accelerate the supply of new homes including associated facilities (playing pitches, health, schools, community centres etc);
- Increase visits to Newark and Sherwood and the use of visitor attractions by local residents;
- Protect, promote and enhance the district's natural environment;
- Enhance and sustain Newark Town Centre;
- Reduce levels of deprivation in target areas and remove barriers to social mobility across the district;
- Improve the health and wellbeing of local residents, with a particular focus on narrowing the gap in healthy life expectancy and other health outcomes;
- Increase participation with the Council and within local communities;
- Generate more income, improve value for money and increase residents' satisfaction with the Council.

3.4 A range of Key Performance Indicators have been developed to enable the Council to measure progress against the plan. Quarterly performance reports will be presented to committees to highlight progress made against actions underpinning each of the objectives.

3.5 Finally the plan makes reference to the recent resident consultation exercise to demonstrate to residents how the feedback has been used to shape the final content of the plan. Reference is also made to arrangements for future consultation and annual update of the plan.

#### **4.0 Equalities Implications**

4.1 When developing the Community Plan we have had regard to the Equality Objectives contained within our Equality Strategy to ensure as far as possible that our plan furthers these objectives. In particular our plan makes a clear link between how we will work with others to improve the life chances of different groups by pooling information, resources and action planning. We also make reference to how we will better understand our communities through the collection and analysis of information, and engaging with partners as appropriate. When reviewing our services we will also ensure that they are accessible and meet the needs of our citizens.

#### **5.0 Financial Implications**

5.1 Activities identified within the plan have been considered as part of the medium term financial planning process, and where appropriate additional funding will be sought in years 2, 3 and 4 of the plan through the normal budgetary process.

#### **6.0 RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Committee provide feedback on the Community Plan 2019 - 2023 and recommend it to Council for approval and adoption.**

#### **Reason for Recommendation**

**To enable the Council to adopt a revised plan which in turn will provide focus around delivering what matters most to our communities.**

#### **Background Papers**

Corporate Objectives Consultation Report.

For further information please contact Tracey Piper on Ext 5219

Karen White

Director – Governance and Organisational Development