

COUNCIL – 21 FEBRUARY 2023

PART I

10. STRATEGIC CORPORATE AND SERVICE PLANNING 2023-2026 (EHoS)

1. Description

- 1.1. This report enables the Council to consider and agree the proposed Corporate Framework 2023-26 and it's supporting Service Plans.

2. Summary of Main Points

- 2.1. The Council adopted its current three-year Corporate Framework for the period 2020-2023 on 25 February 2020. This was prepared taking into account consultation on priorities with the Local Strategic Partnership and the local and national priorities.

- 2.2. The period of the existing Corporate Framework has been and continues to be extraordinary. This has affected the district in many ways with unprecedented demand for and pressure on the Council's services and a requirement for the council to assume new and evolving duties that have and continue to play a key role in the wellbeing of communities.

- 2.3. Looking ahead, there remain many uncertainties which means that preparation of a new Corporate Framework has been challenging. As communities and businesses move towards "living with Covid" and nationally the cost of living crisis builds, the impact of these factors on the economy (national and local) remains unclear, though the emergent signs are very concerning. Consequently, further impacts on the Council; the services it needs to provide and its finances, remain unclear.

- 2.4. This report sets out in Appendix 1 the proposed Corporate Framework for 2023-26 and it's supporting service plans.

- 2.5. The proposed Corporate Framework 2023-26 includes

- 2.5.1. A refreshed vision for the council: Three Rivers: A great place to live, work and visit

- 2.5.2. Four objectives to aid the Council in realising that vision. These are to:

- Provide responsive and responsible local leadership
- Expand our position as a great place to do business
- Support and enable sustainable communities
- Achieve net carbon zero and be climate resilient

- 2.6. The Corporate Framework has been drafted to cover the three year period 2023-26 without the need for an annual rewrite, however, annual updates of Service Plans together with the budget book, as the annual corporate plan, will provide more granular detail on progress against and emergence of new projects and work streams and enable agility within the Council's programme of service delivery.

- 2.7. The proposed Corporate Framework has been developed based on the best available evidence and forecasts and has been informed by engagement with members via the

committee process, council staff and the council's partners and stakeholders through the Local Strategic Partnership.

3. Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

- 3.1. The recommendation in this report is within the Council's agreed policy and budgets. The adoption of a new Corporate Framework for 2023-26 would set the policy context for the Council and its services for that period.

4. Implications for Staffing, Customer Services Centre, Communications & Website

- 4.1. None arising from this report

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 None arising from this report. The Proposals contained within the proposed Corporate Framework and its supporting service plans are in line with the Council's budget as presented at this meeting but will not reflect any budget amendments which may be agreed in the course of the budget approval discussions at this Council meeting,

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 Under Local Authority regulations only Full Council can agree a Corporate Framework
- 6.2 The Council must set its budget before 11 March 2023 in accordance with Section 32 (10) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- 6.3 The Council's Chief Financial Officer (Shared Director of Finance) has a statutory duty to report to the Council if it is likely to incur expenditure that is unlawful or likely to exceed its resources.

7. Equal Opportunities Implications

- 7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment (attached as Appendix 2) has been completed with the outcome that there are no significant negative impacts on groups with protected characteristics. Tackling inequality is a 'golden thread' running throughout the refreshed Corporate Framework 2023-26. Its objectives seek to address issues of inequality and promote inclusivity, tackling health inequalities and the wider determinants of health, targeting regeneration schemes in more deprived areas, supporting quality and affordable housing (including social housing), promoting safer and accessible neighbourhoods and enabling more people-centred service provision.
- 7.2 Equality Impact Assessments will be carried out for specific actions and proposals on a case-by-case basis, including engagement and formal consultation where appropriate. The actions summarised in the corporate framework touch on all aspects of council business and therefore bring all Three Rivers citizens into scope, particularly our most vulnerable residents who receive the most critical services. We will ensure that due regard is given to any potential impact of specific proposals on protected characteristics by conducting Equality Impact Assessments for specific actions and proposals as required. This process is designed to help maximise positive impacts and ensure we are thoughtful and intentional about designing inclusivity and equity in to our work. It also helps us identify potential negative impacts and how we can eliminate, minimise or mitigate these.

8. Sustainability Impact Assessment

8.1 A sustainability impact assessment has been undertaken resulting in a score of:

4 - Strong positive impacts for sustainability. Recommendation to proceed

Climate and Sustainability Impact Assessment Summary	
Homes, buildings, infrastructure, equipment and energy	4.00
Travel	4.00
Goods and Consumption	4.00
Ecology	4.00
Adaptation	4.00
Engagement and Influence	4
Total Overall Average Score	4.0

9. Implications for community safety and Public Health

9.1 A number of objectives and actions proposed with the Corporate Framework are intended to improve community safety and the overall health and wellbeing of the district building on the positive work undertaken under the outgoing framework.

10. Risk and Health and Safety Implication

10.1 The Council has agreed its risk management strategy which can be found on the website at <http://www.threerivers.gov.uk>. In addition, the risks of the proposals in the report have also been assessed against the Council's duties under Health and Safety legislation relating to employees, visitors and persons affected by our operations. The risk management implications of this report are detailed below.

Nature of Risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response	Risk Rating
Council does not agree the Corporate Framework.	There is no clear articulation of the priorities of the Council	Council to agree a Framework to direct the work of services	Tolerate	4

10.2 The above risks are scored using the Council Risk matrix. The Council has determined its aversion to risk and is prepared to tolerate risks where the combination of impact and likelihood scores 6 or less.

11. Recommendations

11.1 That the Council consider and agree the Corporate Framework 2023-26 and its supporting service plans.

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Background Papers:

None

APPENDICES / ATTACHMENTS

Appendix 1: Proposed Draft Corporate Framework 2023-26 and supporting service plans