



Report for:	Cabinet
Date of meeting:	12 February 2019
Part:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Growth and Infrastructure Strategy
Contact:	<p>Cllr Andrew Williams, Leader of the Council Cllr Graham Sutton: Portfolio Holder for Planning & Infrastructure</p> <p>Author/Responsible Officers: Mark Gaynor: Corporate Director, Housing and Regeneration James Doe: Assistant Director, Planning, Development and Regeneration Chris Taylor: Group Manager Strategic Planning and Regeneration</p>
Purpose of report:	To set out a draft strategy for how the Borough Council will respond to the challenges of growth pressures in Dacorum in the long term, and to seek Cabinet and Council approval for it.
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Cabinet recommends Council approves the draft strategy as set out in Appendix 1 to this report, and the draft executive summary at Appendix 2. 2. That non-substantive editing changes be delegated to the Corporate Director – Housing and Regeneration, in consultation with the Leader of the Council.
Corporate Objectives:	<p>The proposed Growth and Infrastructure Strategy helps support all 5 corporate objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Safe and clean environment</i> • <i>Community Capacity</i> • <i>Affordable housing</i> • <i>Dacorum delivers</i> • <i>Regeneration</i>

<p>Consultees:</p>	<p>Cabinet Members Corporate Management Team Leadership Team</p>
<p>Background papers:</p>	
<p>Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:</p>	<p>LDS: Local Development Scheme IDP: Infrastructure Delivery Plan JSP: Joint Strategic Plan <i>(for SW Herts)</i> LDS: Local Development Scheme LEP: Hertfordshire Local Economic Partnership</p>

Background

1. At its meeting on 31 July 2018, Cabinet resolved to produce a Corporate Growth and Infrastructure Strategy for Dacorum for consideration by Cabinet and Council at a future date. Minute CA/81/18 refers.
2. The need for producing this new strategy was set out in the report to Cabinet in July 2018. In short, given the very significant pressure for new growth in Dacorum over the next 30 years or so, the Council would need an agreed approach in place to guide how it manages these pressures, secures new infrastructure and deliver its services.
3. Corporate Management Team has produced the first draft of the new Growth and Infrastructure, which can be found at Appendix 1. An executive summary is included separately at Appendix 2. The draft follows on from a facilitated workshop session to gain the views of Cabinet members and senior officers on what the Strategy should contain. This was held on 1 October 2018 and was facilitated by Cecilia Tredget, Managing Director of East of England Local Government Association.
4. The new Strategy aims to look ahead to 2050 and how the Council should be managing the impact of growth. As such, it sets both a vision for the future of the Borough and a series of high level proposals for how the Council, working with partner agencies and organisations, will seek to manage the growth agenda to the benefit of local residents, businesses and the economy, and the environment.
5. It is not an action plan in itself, but instead sets a clear direction for what the Council will need to be doing to achieve its longer term objectives. For clarity, the Strategy is not the statutory Local Plan, which sets the Council's policies and proposals for the use and development of land. This is a separate process, for which there is an agreed timetable through the approved Local Development Scheme. A separate update report on the Local Plan is included in this meeting agenda.
6. The new strategy is neither a substitute nor replacement for the Corporate Plan. It is expected that this will be revised later this year once local elections have been held. Likewise with the Local Plan, the new Strategy may help advise the content of a new Corporate Plan.
7. The Strategy is centred around six key themes:
 - A. **Housing** - Building Dacorum's future with homes for everyone
 - B. **Jobs and the economy** - Generating a vibrant economy with opportunities for all
 - C. **Health and Wellbeing** - A happier, healthier and safer Dacorum
 - D. **The environment** - Creating a clean, green and attractive Dacorum
 - E. **Transport** - On-track for a better transport network
 - F. **Technology** - Harnessing the opportunity of technology and digital connectivity
8. The approach aims to be clear on what the Council wants to achieve, building on recent successes and recognising the challenges for the future in each

area, based on the evidence available. As such, each section on the strategy's themes is structured into four parts: a vision relating to each; a summary of what has been achieved in the recent past; a list of the challenges and issues that need to be faced; and a set of proposals to set the direction for future work and action.

9. Once approved, the Strategy will provide the basis from which to develop more detailed action plans and strategies that focus on specific issues.
10. Importantly, it can be used to convey a clear message to Government, outside organisations and investors that Dacorum has a positive approach towards managing and delivering growth in the long term. It can be used as a basis to promote the Borough as a prime location for investment and to assist in securing new infrastructure.
11. The Strategy will require the approval of Full Council. Subject to this, the final approved text will be worked up into a document for publication with images and graphics.