



Cabinet



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Report for:	Cabinet
Title of report:	Dacorum Borough Council Corporate Plan: "Our Plan for Dacorum 2024-28"
Date:	10 th September 2024
Report on behalf of:	Councillor Adrian England, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for People and Transformation
Part:	I
If Part II, reason:	N/A
Appendices:	Appendix 1: Draft Corporate Plan: "Our Plan for Dacorum 2024-28"
Background papers:	n/a
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	

Report Author / Responsible Officer

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Corporate Priorities	A clean, safe and enjoyable environment Building strong and vibrant communities Ensuring economic growth and prosperity Providing good quality affordable homes, in particular for those most in need Ensuring efficient, effective and modern service delivery Climate and ecological emergency

Wards affected	All
Purpose of the report:	To propose the attached draft Corporate Plan for Cabinet agreement ahead of submission to Full Council.
Recommendation (s) to the decision maker (s):	That Cabinet recommends the Corporate Plan "Our Plan for Dacorum 2024-28" to Council for adoption.
Period for post policy/project review:	Annually.

1 Introduction/Background:

The Corporate Plan is an important strategic document for the Council. It should set out the Administration's priorities and ambitions for the coming years, enabling:

- Residents, partners and businesses to understand the future plans for their areas;
- Officers to clearly understand the priorities of the elected Administration and deploy their resource accordingly;
- Members to hold the Administration and officers to account on delivery and outcomes;

For the last few months, a sub-group of Administration councillors has been overseeing the development of a new Corporate Plan to replace the current plan which runs out in 2025.

2 Key Issues/proposals/main body of the report:

The draft document is deliberately focussed on the planned activity for the next 4 years. However, it is also prefaced by The Leader's introduction and some background information about the Borough and the Council.

This provides useful context for the main body of the plan which focusses on 7 priority ambitions for the administration. Each of these are broken down into specific commitments which, when delivered, will unlock the ambitions. The plan also sets out how this delivery will impact on residents, businesses, partners and visitors to the Borough.

The plan is not a mechanism for agreeing and launching new policies or initiatives. Instead, it is a product of the work which has been ongoing over recent months and years in areas such as planning and development, place, commercial, housing, neighbourhoods and transformation. The Corporate Plan draws in all this live work and brings it together in one coherent place.

Delivery of each of the priorities and associated commitments will be managed through the Council's well established corporate boards and internal governance structures and there will be Portfolio Holder, Scrutiny and Cabinet oversight as appropriate.

The Council's well-developed approach to project and performance management will ensure clear delivery plans are established and managed for each element of the Corporate Plan. It also allows us to closely monitor and report on delivery and impact. This will be provided regularly to members and residents. The recently agreed new suite of KPIs has been developed with this Corporate Plan in mind and there is an agreed approach to update them if it is felt this is required.

Scrutiny will operate as it does currently, with specific programmes of work reporting into the relevant committee, according to subject matter.

3 Options and alternatives considered

The current Corporate Plan will run out in 2025. While it is not a legal requirement to have such a plan, it is considered very good practice and would cause significant challenges in terms of outside scrutiny and internal resource prioritisation if a plan is not in place.

The content of the plan is based on a number of programmes of work which have already been discussed and agreed. Specific options and alternatives will have been considered during their journey through the decision-making process. The development of the Corporate Plan has not been a mechanism to introduce new programmes. If it is deemed that any new programmes or policies are required to deliver these ambitions, they will also follow the Council's usual governance framework.

4 Consultation

The Corporate Plan has been developed under the oversight sub-group consisting of members from the administration. This sub-group has been supported by Officers. Officers have been

regularly engaged on its development and Portfolio Holders have signed off the elements relevant to their area.

As with potential alternatives options, each element within the plan will have been subject to specific development work and associated consultation. Plan initiatives and projects will proceed through the Council's governance framework separately to allow for robust scrutiny and proper decision-making.

More broadly, consultation and engagement are a key strand running through the plan and will ensure that the plan stands the best chance of delivery.

5 Financial and value for money implications:

The Corporate Plan is made up of a series of individual policies, projects. Each will be assessed for affordability and Value for Money. The overall assessment is covered in the Council's annual budget and medium-term financial strategy.

6 Legal Implications

The Corporate Plan is made up of a series of individual policies, projects and initiatives. Each will be legally assessed at the appropriate stage of development.

7 Risk implications:

The Corporate Plan is made up of a series of individual policies, projects and initiatives. Each will be risk assessed at the appropriate stage of development and throughout delivery.

8 Equalities, Community Impact and Human Rights:

The Corporate Plan is made up of a series of individual policies, projects and initiatives. Each will be assessed at the appropriate stage of development.

9 Sustainability implications (including climate change, health and wellbeing, community safety)

The draft plan contains a specific climate change priority and health and wellbeing and community safety also fall within the content of the plan.

10 Council infrastructure (including Health and Safety, HR/OD, assets and other resources)

Delivery of the plan has been considered in relation to the structure and resources of the Council. Officers have assessed that it is deliverable based on the resource available. Delivery and impact will continue to be monitored through the Council's standard reporting arrangements.

11 Statutory Comments

Monitoring Officer:

The Corporate Plan is the overarching plan which sets the strategic direction for the Council and outlines the priorities for the next 4 years. The plan will enable sound decision-making within the framework of the plan and ensure that the Council can monitor progress.

S151:

The Corporate Plan was developed in parallel with the Council's wider financial planning and reflection of the Medium-Term financial sustainability was considered in the creation of the overarching 2024-2028 Corporate Plan.

12 Conclusion:

The adoption of a new Corporate Plan is required to set out the ambitions and priorities of the Administration. This will provide clarity to residents and partners and will guide Officers in their

work. It will also provide a baseline against which progress and impact can be monitored and scrutinised over a period of time.