



SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 8TH APRIL 2020

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S REVISED STRATEGIC PLAN 2018 – 22

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to invite members of the Commission to comment on the draft revisions made to the Strategic Plan 2018 – 22 to reflect the Council's declaration of a climate emergency.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. The current Strategic Plan 2018 - 22, was approved by the County Council in December 2017.
3. In response to the County Council's resolution to declare a climate emergency in May 2019, it was agreed at the Cabinet meeting in September 2019 that the Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 and Single Outcome Framework would be revised to incorporate the new environment and climate change commitments (alongside a review of aspects of the Environment Strategy 2018 – 30).

Background

4. The Strategic Plan outlines the Council's long-term vision for the organisation and the people and place of Leicestershire. It provides a simple and clear summary of the Council's direction over the next four years.
5. The Council's Strategic Plan is underpinned by other key policies and strategies including the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

Revised draft Strategic Plan

6. The review of the Plan intended to enhance the County Council's ongoing commitment to be a clean and green council and reflect the increasing urgency for action to avoid the worst impacts of climate change and the need for accelerated change.
7. A light touch review of the Strategic Plan has been completed to reflect the climate emergency declaration during the remaining years of the current Plan. This is seen as an interim measure before a full rewrite in 2021/22. The following are the main changes to the plan: -

- a. Revised Council Vision and supporting text to reflect the Council's declaration of a climate emergency and align with the new strategic and supporting outcomes
- b. A new separate and strengthened environment principle which acknowledges the net zero carbon target for the council's operations by 2030.
- c. Revised strategic and supporting outcomes to embed environmental ambitions across all outcomes
- d. Updated narrative text throughout the document: Foreword, Introduction, and the outcome descriptions reflect the Council's re-asserted commitment to be "clean and green".
- e. A new "Our Approach" section – entitled 'Tackling climate change and ecological decline'
- f. Updated section on "Working across the council" to reflect the new Strategic Change Portfolio
- g. The "*Measuring success*" section has been amended to reflect the increased emphasis on environmental performance, with environmental indicators embedded across the relevant outcomes. Other changes have been incorporated to reflect changes in national and local reporting frameworks.

Resource Implications

8. Additional Council resources to implement the Council's declaration of a climate emergency have been allocated in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2020 - 24.

Timetable for Decisions

9. Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee was consulted on the Strategic Plan on 5th March 2020. The Committee broadly welcomed the changes to the Plan and requested that further consideration was given to partnership working and the performance framework relating to air quality. The comments received from the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Commission will inform the final strategy. An extract from the minutes of that meeting are attached as Appendix B.
10. It is intended that the final draft Strategic Plan will be submitted to the Council's Cabinet on 28th April 2020.
11. As the Strategic Plan is part of the Authority's Policy Framework (as defined in the Constitution) any changes will need to be approved by the full Council. It is intended that it will be submitted to the County Council meeting on 13th May 2020.

Equality and Human Rights Implications

12. A screening assessment of the Strategic Plan has been completed and concluded that a full impact assessment is not required.

Partnership Working and associated issues

13. Working in partnership is essential to delivering against an outcomes-based approach.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

None

Background papers

Leicestershire County Council's Strategic Plan 2018 – 22

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/about-the-council/council-plans/the-strategic-plan>

Report to the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 5th March 2020 - <http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1044&MIId=5959&Ver=4>

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Draft Strategic Plan 2018 – 22

Appendix B – Minute extract from the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 5th March 2020

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