

ADOPTION OF THE COUNCIL STRATEGY 2022 – 2026

Reporting Officer: Head of Democratic Services

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 Cabinet, at its meeting on 13 October 2022, approved, for recommendation to Council, the final draft of the Council Strategy. Members are, accordingly, asked to consider its formal adoption as a policy framework document.
- 1.2 The report to Cabinet is attached as an appendix and the Strategy is set out in Appendix 1 to that report. The Strategy has been developed and consulted on in accordance with Chapter 4 of the Council's Constitution and the Budget and the Policy Framework Procedure Rules therein.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Council Strategy 2022-2026, be adopted as part of the Council's policy framework.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Council Strategy is the overarching policy framework document of the Council, setting the Administration's vision and ambition for the Council and residents over the next four years. It also sets out important commitments to residents as follows:
 - Safe and Strong Communities
 - Thriving, Healthy Households
 - A Green and Sustainable Borough
 - A Thriving Economy
 - A Digital-Enabled, Modern, Well-Run Council
- 2.2 These commitments build on the Council's successes to date and present a bold agenda for the Council and Borough for the years ahead, one that can positively respond to a changing world, local needs and aspirations.
- 2.3 Aligned to and underpinning the delivery of the Strategy is continued strong leadership, sound financial management and transformation, so that residents can continue to expect high-quality services and facilities provided in the most efficient way. Internally, the Strategy will ensure a strong performance management framework for the delivery of local services.

Consultation carried out

- 2.4 The draft Strategy has been through a period of extensive public consultation following publication by the Cabinet in July 2022 and this is set out in the attached report. The consultation responses have been positive and supportive. Select Committees, as statutory consultees, have also provided welcome feedback. This has all been taken into account in the final version, now presented to full Council.

3. Financial implications

The Strategy will provide the overarching policy framework within which the Council will deliver for residents, with development of the Council's Medium Term Financial Forecast and Budget Strategy to be undertaken in pursuit of these ambitions and commitments.

4. Legal Implications

There are no legal impediments to the Council adopting the proposed Strategy which is in accordance with the outcome of the consultation and Council Constitution.

Background papers: None