

## **NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **GOVERNANCE SCRUTINY PANEL**

#### **COUNCIL PLAN 2022-2025**

#### **1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To set out for the Panel the steps taken to produce the draft Council Plan for 2022-2025 and present the aforementioned for scrutiny
- 1.2 To seek recommendation from the Panel for the draft Council Plan to be presented for approval at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and for it to be adopted as a policy framework document

#### **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The Council Plan is the key corporate document which outlines the priorities for the Council and the place of North Lincolnshire over the next three years.
- 2.2 The Council is currently working to a Council Plan covering the period 2018-2021. It was reviewed in 2020, however, to ensure that strategic activity remains focused on priority areas and potential opportunities, a new Council Plan spanning the period 2022-2025 is proposed.
- 2.3 The draft Plan presents the vision for North Lincolnshire. It identifies future priorities and desired outcomes which are based on evidence collated from assessments of the international, national, regional and local contexts which the Council operates within, residents' feedback, and key macro and locally based data related to economic, environment, deprivation and health matters. Much of the evidence base is contained in the recently completed North Lincolnshire Profile 2022.

#### **3. COUNCIL PLAN 2022-2025**

- 3.1 To determine the priorities for the new Plan an assessment has been made of the on-going relevance of the priorities and desired outcomes detailed in its predecessor. The outcomes were:

- People in North Lincolnshire feel **SAFE**
- People in North Lincolnshire are **WELL**
- North Lincolnshire is more **PROSPEROUS**
- North Lincolnshire is better **CONNECTED**

With the priorities for North Lincolnshire set out as:

- Keeping people safe and well
- Enabling resilient and flourishing communities
- Enabling economic growth and renewal

3.2 Having analysed and assessed data and information as set out in 2.3 above, it has been determined that both the current outcomes and priorities as detailed in 3.1 remain an appropriate supporting framework around which to build the new Plan. However, it is proposed that a fourth priority be publicly declared, which describes how the Council will work to deliver against its intentions:

- Providing value for money for local taxpayers

3.3 Within each priority, a number of areas of focus have been identified. These are designed to help focus Council activity on matters of particular significance and to take positive action over the lifespan of the new Plan.

Priority:	<b>Keeping people safe and well – to achieve a longer and better quality of life for our residents</b>
Areas of Focus	1. Safeguard and support everyone to live safely and independently within their families and communities
	2. Ensure the care sector is of high quality and care leavers receive the on-going support they need
	3. Reduce health inequalities and promote wellbeing

Priority:	<b>Enabling resilient and flourishing communities – to develop greater resilience and community spirit and enable them to identify and meet their ambitions</b>
Areas of Focus	1. Work to improve the condition of the existing housing stock and support sustainable tenancies
	2. Maintain a safe, clean and green local environment
	3. Make it easier and safer for people to get around sustainably
	4. Support our volunteers and create stronger communities with access to a range of leisure, culture and other facilities

Priority:	<b>Enabling economic growth and renewal – there are highly skilled jobs and opportunities for a highly skilled workforce and the local economy supports efforts to reduce carbon emissions</b>
Areas of Focus	1. Encourage personal ambition through access to high quality education, guidance and opportunities to upskill
	2. Create vibrant town centres and expand the local economy to secure more highly skilled jobs and encourage the business sector to transition to a net-zero carbon position
	3. Build enough high quality and environmentally sustainable houses

Priority:	<b>Providing value for money for local taxpayers – high quality services are provided for residents and the Council is well-led</b>
Areas of Focus	1. Get it right for our customers, first time
	2. Remain financially sustainable and meet our environmental responsibilities
	3. Maintain our position as a well-managed and well-governed Council

- 3.4 Against each area of focus a series of key indicators have been identified. These will be used to show how the Council is progressing against the priorities. It is suggested that reporting on these will form part of an annual Council Plan Progress Report.
- 3.5 A crucial component of Council Plan development is the involvement of residents, to ‘sense check’ the proposed priorities. To that extent use has been made of the Council’s Residents Panel who were surveyed to establish their thoughts on the Council Plan’s priorities.
- 3.6 Ninety-two responses were received, representing a completion rate of 28%. A detailed analysis of the exercise is provided within the background papers, but in summary, the conclusions that can be reasonably drawn are:
- The vast majority of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the priorities were the right areas to focus on within the Council Plan 2022-2025.
  - In addition to the proposed areas of focus within each priority area, respondents highlighted a number of further matters to be considered for incorporation into future policy and/or project design.
  - Across the responses, a strong sentiment was evident related to a desire for rural communities to see improved access to services.

3.7 In addition to setting out the outcomes and priorities for North Lincolnshire over the next three year period, the Council Plan also provides useful information including:

- The principles and values that guide the way in which the Council works
- How the Council is funded
- The manner in which the Council conducts its business, including its partnership working
- The key supporting strategies that deliver the outcomes and priorities
- Key achievements across the lifespan of the previous Council Plan
- How residents can play a part in shaping the future

#### **4. SUMMARY**

4.1 In producing the draft Council Plan 2022-2025 to this point, the following key steps have been taken which provide assurance that the process has been rigorous and evidence led:

- A review of the on-going relevance of the aims and objectives of the previous Plan
- The collation and analysis of relevant data and intelligence related to both the macro and micro environment
- Consultation with residents
- Based on evidence, the identification of key areas of focus to be addressed by the Plan
- The identification of appropriate key indicators to benchmark against and track and report progress

#### **5. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

5.1 The Panel is invited to note the contents of this report and the draft Council Plan 2022-2025 and to recommend that the Plan be presented for approval at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and for it to be adopted as a policy framework document.

#### **6. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

6.1 Scrutiny of the work undertaken to develop the Plan and of its content and intentions will provide assurance that due process has been followed, prior to adoption as a policy framework document.

6.2 Support for the Plan and the recommendation that it be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022, will provide the wider council Membership with assurance that appropriate scrutiny has taken place and that the Plan is in a state of readiness for presentation.

**7. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)**

7.1 Resources associated with the delivery of the aims and intentions of the Council Plan 2022-2025, will be reflected in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plans.

**8. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)**

8.1 A council-wide approach to assessing and monitoring the implications and risks associated with the Council Plan form part of the Council's strategic risk management activities.

8.2 The areas of focus related to sustainability, energy efficiency, carbon reduction and environmental protection contained within the Plan, support the intentions of the Council's Green Futures Strategy.

**9. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

9.1 Stage One assessment has been completed which has concluded that a full IIA is not required in support of the new Council Plan 2022-2025. Further details are available within the background papers.

**10. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

10.1 Ongoing consultation and collaboration with a range of national, regional, place partners and other key stakeholders is integral to the production and delivery of the Council Plan.

10.2 The results of consultation with residents are available for review in the background papers.

10.3 There are no conflicts of interests associated with this report.

**11. RECOMMENDATIONS**

11.1 That the Panel note the content of the report.

11.2 That the Panel recommends that the draft Council Plan 2022-2025 be presented for approval at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and for it to be adopted as a policy framework document.

DIRECTOR: GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITIES

Church Square House  
SCUNTHORPE  
North Lincolnshire  
DN15 6NR  
Author: James O'Shaughnessy  
Date: 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022