

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
CABINET – 7 NOVEMBER 2023
REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (FINANCE AND TRANSFORMATION)

VISION AND PRIORITIES 2023-26

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides a summary of the Community Survey and proposed vision and priorities for 2023-2026 (the Community Plan).

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That Cabinet notes the summary of the Community Survey as summarised in this report and Appendix 1.
- 2.2 That Cabinet recomeds to Council to agree the new vision and priorities for 2023-2026 (the Community Plan) as summarised in this report and Appendix 2.

3 Explanation

- 3.1 The Council reviews and re-sets its vision and priorities for the borough every three years.
- 3.2 Each year, the Council publish a Corporate Business Plan to support the priorities, which includes major projects and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that measure the performance of a range of services throughout the year. The 2024-25 Business Plan will be developed with officers and Executive Members over the coming months and agreed at Cabinet in January 2024.
- 3.3 To support with the development of the new Community Plan, a survey was launched in September to seek the views of residents, business, and visitors to the borough.
- 3.4 1379 survey responses were received and analysed to identify the following five priorities and overall vision of 'Putting Communities at our Heart':

3.4.1 Homes to be proud of:

- a) The survey results told us that residents want access to affordable housing and for new housing to meet their needs and needs of future generations, whilst continuing to support vulnerable residents, and prevent and support homelessness.

3.4.2 Enable an Economy that delivers for everyone

- a) The survey results told us that residents want to be able to access a wide choice of services and amenities in the two town centres, neighbourhood centres, whilst supporting local businesses.

3.4.3 Action on Climate Change

- a) Whilst climate change was not a top priority from the survey results, the council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and it is considered that this should be a key priority to ensure the council stay on track to meet its target of becoming net zero by 2030.

3.4.4 Run an effective Council

- a) The survey responses indicated that residents want the council to actively engage and listen whilst making services more cost effective and accessible.

3.4.5 Together, create opportunities for our communities.

- a) The survey responses indicated that residents want their local areas to be safer and cleaner, whilst being able to access open green spaces and local amenities.

3.5 In parallel to the development of the Community Plan, the Council's values and behaviours have been reviewed and refreshed. These four CORE priorities are key to allow staff to be successful in their roles and deliver the Council's new priorities and commitments:

3.5.1 Collaborative – working together to get things done.

3.5.2 Open – behaving with integrity and fairness.

3.5.3 Responsible – taking responsibility for actions and decisions.

3.5.4 Excellent – performing at our best and striving for excellence.

3.6 The Council's Plan on a Page is included in Appendix 2.

Implications

4 Legal Implication(s)

4.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the contents of this report.

5 Financial Implication(s)

5.1 Failure to deliver on the agreed priorities may have a financial impact for the council. Financial implications are reviewed as part of the Council's project management and risk management frameworks as appropriate. The annual Corporate Business Plan will be developed in conjunction with budget setting.

6 Risk Management Implications

6.1 Failure to deliver on the agreed priorities may have a risk impacts. Risk management implications will be reviewed as part of the Council's project management and risk management frameworks.

7 Security & Terrorism Implication(s)

7.1 There are no direct security and terrorism implications arising from the contents of this report.

8 Procurement Implication(s)

8.1 There are no direct procurement implications arising from the contents of this report.

9 Climate Change Implication(s)

9.1 It is proposed that Action on Climate Change is a priority for the Council over the next three years. This is in recognition of the Council declaring a climate emergency in 2019 and adopting a net zero target by 2030.

10 Health and Wellbeing Implications

10.1 It is proposed that the continued promotion of Health and Wellbeing of our communities is a key commitment.

11 Communication and Engagement Implication(s)

11.1 The priorities and commitments with the new Community Plan will continue to be promoted within communities wherever possible so the Council can continue to build services around their needs.

12 Link to Corporate Priorities

12.1 The subject of this report is to set our strategic and corporate priorities for 2023-26.

13 Equality and Diversity

13.1 The proposals set out the Council's intention to ensure services are accessible to all. An EqlA was completed in relation to this report and no negative impact was identified on any of the protected groups under Equalities legislation.

13.2 As part of the survey, some demographic information was collected. This will be considered when delivering the new priorities and commitments,

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Date **23 October 2023**

Appendix 1 Community Survey Summary
Appendix 2 Community Plan on a Page