

Report to: **Council**

Date: **17 December 2020**

Title: **COVID-19 Recovery and Renewal Plan**

Portfolio Area: **Governance and Assurance**
Cllr Judy Pearce - Leader of the Council

Wards Affected: **All**

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken: **Immediately following this meeting**

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Recommendation:

That Council adopt

- **The Covid-19 Recovery and Renewal Plan (as attached at Appendix A), and**
- **The Consultation & Engagement Strategy and Year 1 Delivery Plan (as attached at Appendix C)**

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The Council has been developing a Recovery and Renewal Plan in recognition of the need to respond to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 1.2 The draft plan ('The Plan') has now been refined and is presented to Council for adoption through this report.
- 1.3 An action generated through the recovery planning process was to develop a Consultation and Engagement Strategy, which is also presented to Council for adoption.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic has affected the lives of everybody in our District. The response has, by necessity, been large-scale and complex involving all sectors of the

community from the Government through to individual volunteers.

- 2.2 The pandemic continues and, at the time of writing, we have just moved from a second National Lockdown into new 'Tier 2' restrictions that continue to impact on freedom of movement and important sectors of our economy, particularly hospitality.
- 2.3 The long-term impacts are many and varied including the tragic loss of lives, major disruption to education and an unmeasured economic shock.
- 2.4 The Council continues to play a key role, alongside partners, in both response and recovery to the short, medium and long-term impacts of the pandemic and in the implementation of a range of essential support for individuals, the wider community and business.
- 2.5 The Plan, which by necessity remains a living document, has been developed following a series of Member workshops.
- 2.6 The Executive considered the Plan at their meeting on 3rd December 2020 and now recommend the plan to Council for adoption.
- 2.7 At the same meeting, The Executive also considered the Consultation and Engagement Strategy Framework developed by an Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group.
- 2.8 The Executive asked that Officers take steps to develop the Framework in to a final strategy that is set out at Appendix C.

3. Outcomes/outputs

- 3.1 This report seeks to secure the adoption of the Plan by the Council.
- 3.2 Once adopted, work will be undertaken to implement the plan and to provide updates on progress to The Executive.
- 3.3 This report also seeks to secure the adoption of the Consultation and Engagement Strategy.

4. Refining the Recovery and Renewal Plan

- 4.1 It is essential that the adopted Plan focusses on the key work needed to support recovery across the District. In view of this, the Plan has been refined and where actions are better delivered through, for example, existing or emerging strategies or activity, they have been reallocated to allow the Plan to focus on core Recovery and Renewal activity.
- 4.2 Details of Members priorities which we propose to transfer to existing or emerging strategies are included in Appendix B to this document.
- 4.3 The Plan will remain a living, interim document whilst work continues on the development of a new Corporate Strategy.

5. Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1 It is proposed that Council adopt the Covid-19 Recovery and Renewal Plan as set out at Appendix A and the Consultation and Engagement Strategy at Appendix C.

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	Y	The COVID-19 Recovery Plan and the Consultation and Engagement Strategy are plans or strategies that are reserved to full Council under the scheme of delegation.
Financial implications to include reference to value for money	Y	<p>The areas being actioned are set out within the Financial Stability Recovery and Renewal Theme of the COVID19 Recovery Plan.</p> <p>Monthly Government returns on COVID costs and loss of income have been completed.</p> <p>Regular Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring reports have also been presented to the Executive, which included details of the current capital programme for review.</p> <p>The Medium Term Financial Strategy has been updated and was considered by the Executive on 22nd October.</p> <p>The Audited Accounts were published by 30th November, having been approved by the Audit Committee for publication, subject to the finalisation of the audit work of Grant Thornton.</p> <p>On 24th September, Council approved an Amended Budget for 2020-21.</p> <p>The Council has responded to Government consultations, in particular on the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), to lobby for fairer funding, early notification of some of the financial elements of the next Finance Settlement for 2021/22 onwards and a change in some of the 'rules' affecting Local Government finances.</p>
Risk	Y	The risk implications are outlined in detail within the original published report to the Meeting (Appendix A refers).
Supporting Corporate Strategy	Y	The action plan accompanying this report contributes to all corporate strategy themes
Climate Change - Carbon / Biodiversity Impact	Y	The report recommends that a number of actions from the Member Recovery workshops be included within the Climate and Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan.

Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity	N	There are no direct Equality and Diversity Impacts as a result of this report
Safeguarding	N	There are no direct safeguarding impacts as a result of this report
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder	N	None
Health, Safety and Wellbeing	N	None
Other implications	N	None

Supporting Information

Appendices:

- Appendix A – Recovery Plan
- Appendix B – Member priorities for inclusion in alternative delivery plans
- Appendix C – Consultation and Engagement Strategy

Background Papers:

- Executive 17th September 2020 Item E.15/20 –Coronavirus Recovery & Renewal Plan Development Update [Click here for link to open item E.15/20](#)
- Overview and Scrutiny 19th November 2020 Item 10 <http://mg.swdevon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=134&MId=1497&Ver=4>