

Report to: **Executive**

Date: **8 July 2021**

Title: **Draft Annual Report 2020/21**

Portfolio Area: **Cllr Judy Pearce
Leader**

Wards Affected: **All**

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

Date next steps can be taken: Upon expiry of the call-in period – 5.00pm on Monday, 19 July.

Author: **Neil Hawke** Role: **Head of Strategy**

Contact: **01803 861323** Neil.Hawke@swdevon.gov.uk

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Executive be RECOMMENDED that:

- 1. the progress and achievements made by the Council be noted; and**
- 2. the South Hams Draft Annual Report (as presented at Appendix A) be considered for the financial year 2020/21, with any amendments being suggested prior to publishing the final report.**

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 It is good practice to undertake a review of the Council's progress across a range of activities as well as providing a public record
- 1.2 The Council's Annual Report reviews progress and achievements during what has been a challenging year for everyone.
- 1.3 The Annual Report 2020/21 is presented at Appendix A.

2. Background

- 2.1 The last financial year was unlike any other in memory, with the Council having to quickly take steps to respond to a global pandemic which presented many local challenges.
- 2.2 This year's annual report includes an overview of the support that the Council provided to support our businesses, residents

and communities as well as highlighting some of the key projects delivered to support our wider aims.

- 2.3 The Annual Report, along with the Annual Governance Statement should help reassure the public that the Council is undertaking its statutory functions, delivering its services efficiently and meeting its financial responsibilities in an open and transparent way.

3. Outcomes/outputs

- 3.1 The Annual Report demonstrates the progress made throughout 2020/21 in delivering against our plans but acknowledges the challenges that have been faced.
- 3.2 Once considered by Executive, the Annual Report will be published online as a permanent record of the year's activities.

4. Options available and consideration of risk

- 4.1 The Annual Report is a balanced view of the challenges faced by the Council and importantly the achievements made during the year.
- 4.2 The Council could decide to no longer publish an annual report however it is considered doing so supports our aims of being a transparent Council.

5. Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Annual Report 2020/21 is agreed.
- 5.2 Members are also asked to consider any amendments or additions to the Draft Annual Report prior to publishing of the final document.

6. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	N	There are no direct legal implications as a result of this report. It is considered good practice to produce an Annual Report so as to highlight to Members and the public how the Council conducts its business and the key issues that the Council faces.
Financial implications to include reference to value for money	Y	The report provides an overview of the Council's financial performance during the 2020/21 Financial Year and sets out some of the key activities that the Council has been delivering. It does not seek any financial decisions or make any financial recommendations
Risk	Y	The main risk would be if the Council did not produce an annual report as it would be a reduction in levels of transparency.

Supporting Corporate Strategy		The annual report summarises some of the key achievement against the council's aims.
Climate Change - Carbon / Biodiversity Impact	Y	The Annual Report includes a summary of the positive steps that the Council is taking to respond to the Climate and Biodiversity Emergency
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity	N	No policy or service change proposed
Safeguarding	N	No policy or service change proposed
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder	N	No policy or service change proposed
Health, Safety and Wellbeing	N	
Other implications	N	

Supporting Information

Appendices:

Appendix A – Draft Annual Report 2020/21

Background Papers:

None