

Agenda Item 38.

TITLE	Council Plan Engagement Document
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	The Executive on 28 August 2018
WARD	None Specific;
DIRECTOR	Chief Executive - Interim Manjeet Gill
LEAD MEMBER	.Leader of the Council - Charlotte Haitham Taylor

PURPOSE OF REPORT (INC STRATEGIC OUTCOMES)

To present the Engagement Summary for the Borough Plan 2025 which summarises the proposed vision and priorities for Wokingham Borough over the next five years. This will be used to start the engagement process with the public and partners to seek their views and input on what the future direction for Wokingham Borough should be.

RECOMMENDATION

The Executive is asked to consider and approve the Engagement Summary document and commence a consultation with the Wokingham Borough community and stakeholders.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Engagement Summary summarises the approach Wokingham Borough Council would like to take, working in partnership, to create an agreed future vision for the Borough over the next five years; April 2019 to March 2025.

The Engagement Summary aims to present the headlines for each key theme and to provide an overview for our public:

- On what we think our challenges are for the Borough
- On what we could do to address and resolve these challenges
- To prompt a wider discussion and to seek our public's views on these proposals.

We have a strong track record of working in partnership and we want to build and extend this approach.

The aim of this engagement is to openly consult with all stakeholders in order to review the proposals gathered so far and to initiate a wider discussion on:

- Whether these proposed priorities are the right ones for Wokingham Borough,
- Other areas which have not yet been considered and what evidence supports these
- The agreed future approach both we and our stakeholders, in partnership, can take to address these identified challenges.
- What the community, voluntary sector, business and public sector can do to address these challenges.

BACKGROUND

The Council Plan Review, approved on 22 March 2018 at Council, sets out the Council’s achievements to date and identifies the key actions planned for delivery during 2018/19 financial year in order to support the current Council Plan vision.

The future strategic plan is being developed for the next five years from April 2019 to March 2025 and will be a partnership Borough Plan with an agreed vision for a future Wokingham.

BUSINESS CASE (Including Options and Evidence of Need)

The Borough Plan, and the associated Council Plan to deliver the Council’s actions, will identify the priorities for the Borough. The Borough Plan will co-ordinate the resources of all those with a stake in the Borough. This will deliver better outcomes for the Borough.

The Council Plan will enable the Council to focus its resources on the things that really make a difference. The Council Plan will guide the actions of the Council and enable long term planning and quicker decision making.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	None		
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	None		
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	None		

Other Financial Information

None

Stakeholder Considerations and Consultation

This process begins the engagement process.

Resourcing and Timeline for Next Steps

Over the next 3 months we will engage with our partners and the public on the Borough Plan.

Communication on Decision Made and Implementation

Timeline for Review and Evaluation
The Council Plan will be approved by Council in February 2019

List of Background Papers
Council Plan Engagement Document

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