

Agenda Item 50.

TITLE	Recovery Strategy Update to September 2021
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 17 November 2021
WARD	None Specific
DIRECTOR	Graham Ebers, Resources and Assets

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

The strategy seeks to support recovery across the Borough on the back of the Covid19 pandemic and pulls together some of the key activities underway to support our communities in recovery.

The strategy will continue to be delivered through to 2026, recognising that this is a long-term plan.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is requested to note progress in delivery of the Strategy and the key achievements to date.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The report sets out progress against delivery of the Recovery Strategy 2021-26, focussing on achievements and changes through to September 2021. These updates are presented across the nine priorities, focussing on the immediate action points for Year 1.

Within the update, the report brings out one aspect of the strategy where the approach has been changed: this is within the Stimulate Job Creation & Skills priority where there has been a change in focus from a hub model to an outreach approach.

Background

The Council developed a Recovery Strategy 2021-2026 to focus recovery from the Covid19 pandemic, supporting our communities in nine key areas of:

1. Climate Change
2. Physical & Emotional Health & Wellbeing
3. Education and Development for Children & Young People
4. Creating Resilient Communities & Sustainable Services
5. Investing in a Sustainable Future, Regeneration and Arts & Culture
6. Supporting & Strengthening Businesses & the Local Economy
7. Stimulate Job Creation & Skills
8. Developing our People & New Ways of Working
9. Contain Outbreak Management Framework (COMF)

The report (slides) attached includes progress against each of these priorities, drawing out achievements and any aspects that have changed through to the end of September 2021.

One notable success from this which stands out above the others is the work which has been done during the period to enable the opening in November 2021 of the Dinton Activity Centre as the Borough's first carbon neutral building. This has subsequently been chosen by the Local Government Association as an innovative climate activity which they are promoting through their digital exhibition at COP26.

The Recovery Strategy is in early stages of delivery, with actions planned to continue over the next four years, supported by the existing Equality Plan and the Anti-Poverty Strategy which is in development with our voluntary sector partners.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe funding pressures, particularly in the face of the Covid-19 crisis. It is, therefore, imperative that Council resources are focussed on the vulnerable and its highest priorities.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	See other financial implications		
Next Financial Year (Year 2)			
Following Financial Year (Year 3)			

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

Some Government funding has been made available, which supports delivery of the Recovery Strategy, with the bulk of the work for Year 1 being activities put forward by the relevant services.

The Strategy is delivered through targeting existing resources in the MTFP and seeking additional resources as appropriate.

Cross-Council Implications

Much activity is happening across the Council and our partners to facilitate rapid recovery within our communities.

Public Sector Equality Duty

It is known that certain communities have been more adversely impacted by the Covid19 pandemic and this strategy will help these people recover and address the challenges they are facing.

Climate Emergency – The Council has declared a Climate Emergency and is committed to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Wokingham borough by 2030

This update pulls out one specific achievement contributing towards the climate emergency, which has achieved national recognition at COP26 as above.

List of Background Papers

Recovery Strategy 2021-2026

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