

SUPPLEMENTARY AND AMENDED PRIORITIES – WOKING FOR ALL STRATEGY

Executive Summary

This report seeks Executive approval of the **Supplementary and amended priorities to the Council's Woking for all Strategy 2022-27** following the change in administration.

The Woking for all Strategy provided an overview of the Council's strategic outcomes for the next five years and incorporated the actions for 2022/23 to support the delivery of these outcomes.

The Strategy was approved by Council at its meeting on 31st March 2022 alongside the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). The MTFS provides the financial strategy that supports and underpins the resourcing and delivery of the Woking for all Strategy and aligns resourcing and funding decisions with the strategic outcomes the Council is working towards delivering.

Further to the adoption of the Strategy, the new administration is establishing its policy priorities with a focus of taking on the gradual challenge of major change with both decisive and targeted actions. The supplementary and amended priorities proposed within this report operationalize a set of policy priorities for 2022-23 through incorporating them into the existing council strategic planning framework through the Woking for all Strategy 2022-27.

Recommendations

The Executive is requested to:

RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL That

the supplementary and amended priorities for 2022-23 to the Woking for all Corporate Strategy 2022-27, as attached to the report, be adopted.

Reasons for Decision

Reason: To enable the Council to clearly articulate its strategic objectives and focus of work within the Council and beyond.

The item(s) above will need to be dealt with by way of a recommendation to Council.

Background Papers: None.

Reporting Person: Julie Fisher, Chief Executive
Email: julie.fisher@woking.gov.uk, Extn: 3333

Contact Person: Julie Fisher, Chief Executive
Email: julie.fisher@woking.gov.uk, Extn: 3333

Supplementary and Amended Priorities – Woking for all Strategy

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Ann-Marie Barker
Email: cilrann-marie.barker@woking.gov.uk

Shadow Portfolio Holder: Councillor Ayesha Azad
Email: cilrayesha.azad@woking.gov.uk

Date Published: 8 June 2022

Supplementary and Amended Priorities – Woking for all Strategy

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In order to provide a clear sense of direction for Council staff, residents, businesses and partner organisations, the Council set out its strategic objectives in a five-year Strategy for 2022-2027.
- 1.2 The Strategy was approved by Council at its meeting on 31st March 2022 alongside the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). The MTFS provides the financial strategy that supports and underpins the resourcing and delivery of the Woking for all Strategy and aligns resourcing and funding decisions with the strategic outcomes the Council is working towards delivering.
- 1.3 Further to the adoption of the Strategy, the new administration is establishing its policy priorities with a focus of taking on the gradual challenge of major change with both decisive and targeted actions. The supplementary and amended priorities proposed within this report operationalize a set of policy priorities for 2022-23 through incorporating them into the existing council strategic planning framework through the Woking for all Strategy 2022-27.

2.0 Community Engagement

- 2.1 The Council has a bold vision to be in constant communication with residents and to have an embedded culture of consultation in how it operates and makes decisions that are in the best interests of the communities of the Woking Borough.
- 2.2 A series of community roadshows took place to obtain community feedback, to inform and influence the strategic outcomes for the Council. An independent report providing analysis of the feedback from the questionnaire was commissioned and was reported to the 20th of January meeting of the Executive.
- 2.3 The key priorities identified by communities helped the strategic outcomes for the next five years and the priority actions for 2022/23.
- 2.4 The current community engagement framework will be enhanced and taken a step further so that it becomes part of how the Council does business.
- 2.5 Included within the supplementary priorities for 2022-23 there are an additional three targeted and enhanced community engagement proposals that address the priorities of building the understanding of what is important to each area of Woking, working together to support local people through the cost-of-living crisis, increasing the sustainability of the borough and taking communities with the Council on the journey. The proposed enhanced community engagement activity for 2022-23 are:
 - a comprehensive engagement strategy and extended public consultation on the Town Centre Masterplan;
 - engagement with local charities, providers and support groups to support people through the cost-of-living crisis; and
 - engagement with local people on initiatives such as community gardens to support health and well-being and increase sustainability.

Supplementary and Amended Priorities – Woking for all Strategy

3.0 Woking for all Strategy 2022-27

3.1 The Woking for all Strategy 2022-27 Supplementary and Amended Priorities 2022-23 is attached at Appendix 1 and sets the strategic priorities for the Council against the current overarching strategic themes of:

- Healthier Communities
- Engaged Communities
- Greener Communities
- Prospering Communities
- High Performing Council

3.2 Within the overarching themes there are a further twenty-three supplementary priority actions for 2022/23.

3.3 The priority actions adopt the approach taken by the new administration of taking on the gradual challenge of major change with both decisive and targeted actions and building on the performance reset that was established in 2021/22 to embed affordable, responsible, and sustainable principles into how the Council conducts its business going forward.

3.4 The Woking for all Strategy will be reviewed annually to ensure the strategic outcomes remain relevant and annual priority actions to deliver the outcomes are set.

4.0 Implications

Finance and Risk

4.1 The Woking for all Strategy and the supplementary and amended priorities for 2022-23 are aligned with the MTFS and are within the approved general fund budget.

Equalities and Human Resources

4.2 The Strategy reflects the Council's ambitions to promote equality and address inequalities in Woking.

4.3 The Strategy will support staff in understanding the strategic direction of the Council.

Legal

4.4 The Woking for all Strategy 2022-27 and the supplementary and amended priorities 2022-23 clearly set the Council's strategic objectives key deliverables. Any legal implications arising from the key deliverables will be addressed at the appropriate time.

REPORT ENDS