



NORWICH City Council

Committee name: Cabinet

Committee date: 06/03/2024

Report title: Scrutiny Committee Recommendations

Portfolio: Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources

Report from: Head of legal and procurement

Wards: All wards

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Purpose

To consider the recommendations made by scrutiny committee in relation to the council's draft Corporate Plan 2024-20289 and the Assets (Non-Housing) Five Year Plan.

Recommendation:

To consider whether to adopt all or some of the recommendations from the scrutiny committee.

Policy framework

The council has five corporate priorities, which are:

- People live independently and well in a diverse and safe city.
- Norwich is a sustainable and healthy city.
- Norwich has the infrastructure and housing it needs to be a successful city.
- The city has an inclusive economy in which residents have equal opportunity to flourish.
- Norwich City Council is in good shape to serve the city.

The scrutiny committee is an important part of the democratic process, helping hold the cabinet to account and exploring how services are performing. As such, a well performing scrutiny committee can contribute to all corporate priorities.

Report details

1. Members considered the council's draft Corporate Plan 2024-2029 at the committee meeting held 29 February 2024.
2. Members received a presentation from the Strategy Manager and were able to ask questions of the leader of the council and the cabinet member for resources.
3. Members thanked officers for their work on the Corporate Plan.
4. Members heard that the Corporate Plan was an iterative process and that there would be a reengagement with partners and residents as part of the business planning process.
5. The Chief Executive Officer emphasised that this was the beginning of a new way of working and the priorities of the Corporate Plan were those which were identified as part of the consultation process.
6. Members considered recommendations to make to cabinet as below:

Recommendation	Rationale	Implications/ resource requirements
Involve scrutiny committee in the development of the business planning process for the Corporate Plan and the associated corporate performance framework;	Members heard how much of the detail would emerge as part of the business plan process and asked to be involved in this.	Officer time to engage with committee.
Conduct a consultation on the Corporate Plan with young people in primary and high school;	To ensure that the voices of young people are incorporated.	<p>Opportunities to be part of stakeholder events were offered to high schools but they expressed they were unable to attend due to a busy schedule.</p> <p>Officer time to engage schools and consider outcomes.</p>
Ensure that the Corporate Plan commits to provision of access to services for those individuals who do not have digital knowledge or access;	Concern that success is marked as getting more people to engage digitally and there needs to be a recognition that there will always be a core of individuals who are	Officer time to consider how much resource this would take and member time to consider if this was possible.

	unable to access services digitally.	
Explore ways to better capture demographic data to ensure that all appropriate communities have been consulted with without deterring people from responding; and	To aim to ensure that consultation responses are representative of the community that the council serves. In order that all voices are included.	Officers have raised concern that not always appropriate to collect such data and can deter people from responding. Officer time to consider how to better capture.
Add a section into the Corporate Plan that the Council will commit to create more posts that work with the community and more posts which will see people face to face.	To improve links with our communities and enable those who might be excluded to access services.	Officer and member time to consider what this would look like, to cost and to analysis if there are the resources available.

7. Members also pre scrutinised a number of items at the committee meeting held 29 February 2024; Funding Approval for Three Carbon Reduction Projects, The Assets (Non-Housing) Five Year Plan and Development Site Pipeline.
8. Members only made one recommendation in relation to The Assets (Non-Housing) Five Year Plan items as below:

Recommendation	Rationale	Implications/ resource requirements
Provide the minutes of the Future Shape Norwich (FSN) Board meeting which approved the business case for the Assets Five Year Plan.	Members wished to know more about the work of FSN and how they could find out information about this.	Minutes are kept, officer/ member time to consider if appropriate to share.

Consultation

9. These proposals were considered and agreed by members of the scrutiny committee. There has been no specific consultation on these proposals.

Implications

Financial and resources

10. Any decision to reduce or increase resources or alternatively increase income must be made within the context of the council's stated priorities, as set out in its Corporate Plan 2022-26 and budget.
11. Any additional financial requirements where activities cannot be undertaken within existing resources will need to be subject to further consideration, and approval through a business case. This will need to include an appropriate funding source being identified and/ or being built into future years' budget processes.

Legal

12. The proposals largely request that cabinet consider exploring specific matters further. If these result in formal business cases, the legal implications will require due consideration at that time.

Statutory considerations

Consideration	Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:
Equality and diversity	Members recommendations seek to ensure all relevant communities are heard from.
Health, social and economic impact	Scrutiny of the Corporate Plan ensures these factors are considered.
Crime and disorder	None.
Children and adults safeguarding	None.
Environmental impact	None.

Risk management

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
None at this stage.		

Other options considered

13. There have been no other options considered for this report, as it is a factual report based on the outcome of committee meetings that have already taken place.

Reasons for the decision/recommendation

14. This report will allow cabinet to make a decision on whether or not to take forward some or all of the recommendations.

Background papers:

None

Appendices: None

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