

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

8th September 2020

REPORT TITLE: RECOVERY AND RESTORATION PLAN 2020/21

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Matt Dormer
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Kevin Dicks – Chief Executive Officer Deb Poole – Head of Transformation, OD & Digital Services
Ward(s) Affected	N/A
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	N/A
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 The Covid-19 pandemic has required an unprecedented response from the Council. Even though the requirement to respond to the pandemic is still ongoing it is important to look towards recovery and to the return of business as usual, whenever that may be. The purpose of this report is to update Members on the proposed approach to recovery and to ask Members to consider and endorse the attached Recovery and Restoration Plan 2020 – 2021.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Committee is asked to RECOMMEND

- 2.1 **That the proposed Recovery and Restoration Plan 2020 -2021, as set out in Appendix 1, be endorsed.**
- 2.2 **That the Executive Committee monitor the council's recovery actions against the plan and that the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Leader, be authorised to make amendments to the plan as required.**

The Executive Committee is also asked to NOTE

- 2.3 **The attached Corporate Peer Challenge Report 2020.**

3. KEY ISSUES

Background Information

- 3.1 Whilst the delivery of essential council services has been maintained during the pandemic we have seen major changes in the way officers work and the way councillors carry out their duties. Our local and national economies have been adversely impacted by the unprecedented suspension of trading for most of our local businesses who were unable to operate as normal. Members should be aware that a county wide, multi-agency economic recovery plan is being produced and this will sit alongside our own Recovery and Restoration Plan. It

should also be noted that the Head of Planning and Regeneration and the Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration are also developing a Redditch specific economic recovery plan.

- 3.2 In line with government guidance at the beginning of the pandemic, a number of council staff were classified as key workers. Whilst we have been able to successfully implement a more agile approach to allow everyone who can to work from home, we have also continued to provide all core services with as little disruption to our community as possible.
- 3.3 As Members will have experienced, normal governance and decision making procedures have changed. The introduction of new emergency legislation to allow for the provision of virtual meetings, has seen the process of decision making continue, albeit in a very different way to our usual approach. In light of the pandemic, Members role as community leaders has become increasingly important and appreciated by our community.
- 3.4 It is acknowledged that whilst the initial 'first wave' of infections now appears to be in decline, it is possible that a 'second wave' or local outbreaks may occur over the coming months. In order to plan for these eventualities, the Senior Management Team and Corporate Management Team have taken key learning points from the first outbreak to develop a number of actions to prepare for this situation. The actions include: a further review of Business Continuity Plans, development of a revised Communications Plan, development of a list of employees who live outside the borough who may be impacted by local outbreaks, discussions with existing local support networks to understand their preparedness, discussions with partner agencies regarding the sharing of data and the identification of any staff who may be able to assist with Track and Trace activities.
- 3.5 Whilst the ongoing pandemic still requires some officers to continue to focus on response, the Council as a whole now needs to start planning for recovery and restoration and all that will entail. Whilst the recovery will, no doubt, take some time to implement; it is appropriate that we start to plan our way forward towards 'business as usual'.
- 3.6 To this end, officers have produced the attached Recovery and Restoration Plan. The Recovery and Restoration Plan is built around the five strategic purposes within the current RBC Council Plan and includes some of the priority areas from the Council Plan alongside key recovery actions. The Strategic Purposes in the RBC Council Plan are:
- Run and Grow a Successful Business
 - Finding Somewhere to Live
 - Aspiration, Work & Financial Independence
 - Living Independent, Active & Healthy Lives
 - Communities which are Safe, Well Maintained & Green
- The recovery plan also includes a section for our Corporate Priorities which focuses on the internal business of the council.

- 3.7 It is recognised that the RBC Council Plan was developed prior to the Covid pandemic and as such the focus of some of the previous priorities may have changed as a result of the current crisis. A review of the RBC Council Plan will be undertaken in early 2021 to ensure the priorities are refreshed and remain relevant in a post Covid environment. The Recovery and Restoration Plan also incorporates the main recommendations from the recent Corporate Peer Challenge Review which can be found in Appendix 2.

Legal Implications

- 3.8 None.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.9 Whilst the continuation of services to our community remains the focus of the councils activities, it is anticipated that service areas will also begin to implement the high level actions outlined in the attached recovery plan.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.10 None.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 None.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Recovery and Restoration Plan 2020 – 2021
Appendix 2 – Corporate Peer Challenge Report 2020

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

7. KEY

None

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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