

Board/Committee:	POLICY AND ORGANISATION BOARD
Date of meeting:	15 March 2023
Title:	Council plan
Author:	David Williams, Chief Executive
Status:	FOR DECISION

Purpose

To seek approval from the Board for Gosport Borough Council Plan 2023-24.

Recommendation

That the Board approves the Council Plan 2023-24

1.0 Background

The Gosport Borough Council Plan for 2023-24 updates the council's priorities for the borough and its residents, setting out how the organisation's strategies, capital projects and other initiatives, alongside the council's business as usual services, will work together to help shape a better Gosport for everyone.

2.0 Report

2.1 Engagement

The Council Plan for 2023-24 updates the council's priorities for the borough and its residents. The updated priorities were developed building on engagement with residents about what is important to them, gathered through a council resident survey in 2021 which asked about priorities for the future of the borough, and engagement work conducted as part of the development of the Gosport Story, which created a refreshed identity for Gosport.

2.2 Six priorities

The plan sets out six clear priorities, focused on building a better Gosport for everyone. The first five priorities are centred around the outcomes the council is working to achieve for the borough. The final priority focuses on how the council works, seeking to ensure the organisation is in the best possible position to work with residents, communities, and partners to achieve the priority outcomes for Gosport.

The priorities set out in the Council Plan are as follows:

Building a better Gosport for everyone by:

- 1) Breathing new life into Gosport's high street, town centre and waterfront
- 2) Protecting, enhancing, and promoting Gosport's unique rich heritage and natural coastal environment
- 3) Making Gosport a cleaner and greener place to live, work and visit
- 4) Growing our economy, encouraging investment in Gosport, and creating jobs, opportunities and affordable homes for local people
- 5) Making sure Gosport has great facilities for arts, play, sports and leisure, enriching communities and helping people live healthy and happy lives
- 6) We will do this by being a council that works together with our partners and communities to get things done, listening, innovating, and delivering value for money for the people of Gosport

2.3 Business as usual services

In addition to setting out the priorities the council will focus on here and now to take the council and the borough forwards, the plan also highlights the importance of the business as usual services at the heart of the organisation that our residents value. The plan shows our residents rely on us to deliver a range of services, including:

- collect their bins, provide recycling services and keep the borough clean
- maintain our parks and open spaces
- offer housing services and provide housing benefit
- collect council tax and business rates
- provide planning services, including planning advice, determining planning applications and taking enforcement action when it is needed
- encourage economic development
- prepare for emergencies
- support local democracy, including elections
- provide environmental health and licensing services that help ensure everything from private hire vehicles to food premises are safe, and noise and environmental pollution is minimised

2.4 The Council Plan encompasses the work of the council's business as usual services and the strategies, projects and initiatives that contribute to the priorities, to demonstrate how the council plans to build a better Gosport for the people of the borough. The plan will enable staff to better understand how their role and their work contributes to delivering the overall aspirations for the borough and the council and will enable residents and stakeholders to better understand what the council is working to achieve.

4.0 Conclusion

The Council Plan has been updated and sets out clearly the organisation's priorities for the borough, which have been informed by resident engagement. The Council Plan enables key audiences to understand what the council is working across its strategies, projects and business as usual services to achieve, and enables staff to better understand how they contribute to delivering the council's aspirations for the borough. The Council Plan also helps residents and other stakeholders to understand the council's priorities, so they can engage and get involved where appropriate, and hold the organisation to account. It is therefore recommended that the Board approves the Gosport Borough Council Plan 2023-24.

Financial Services comments:	<i>No direct financial implications arising from this report.</i>
Legal Services comments:	<i>as per the Financial Services comments.</i>
Equality and Diversity:	<i>NA</i>
Climate Change implications:	<i>NA</i>
Crime and Disorder:	<i>NA</i>
Service Improvement Plan implications:	<i>NA</i>
Corporate Plan:	<i>NA</i>
Risk Assessment:	<i>NA</i>
Background Papers:	<i>NA</i>
Appendices:	<i>Gosport Borough Council Corporate Plan 2023/24</i>
Report Author/Lead Officer:	<i>Charlotte Smith, Head of Communications</i>