

Bassetlaw District Council

Council

21st September 2023

Report of the Chief Executive

Vision 2040 and new Council Plan

Cabinet Member: Communications, Policy and Performance
Contact: David Armiger

1. Public Interest Test

David Armiger has determined in preparing this report that it is not confidential.

2. Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 To approve the key aspirations set out in the Council's Vision 2040 and the draft Council Plan for 2023 to 2027 following consultation feedback.

3. Background and Discussion

- 3.1 Bassetlaw District Council adopted its last Corporate Plan, styled the "Council Plan for 2019 – 2023", at a meeting of Full Council on 26th September 2019. The Plan covered a four-year period aligned with the Council's electoral cycle. As reported to Cabinet in June 2023, the Council Plan 2019 – 2023 has reached the end of its life and is to be replaced with a Corporate Plan for 2023 – 2027.
- 3.2 In December 2022, the Council approved the development of a new vision for Bassetlaw to 2040, aligning with the project delivery dates of the STEP fusion energy project. Known as Vision 2040, this aspires:

For Bassetlaw to become the greenest, most sustainable District in which to live and work, building on its legacy of energy production, manufacturing and logistics to power the net zero economy.

- 3.3 As part of Vision 2040, six foundational or strategic pillars are proposed which will start to be delivered in the current administrative period, 2023 – 2027. These are:
- Build a stronger sense of identity for Bassetlaw as a place to live and work, rooted in its commitment to powering the net zero economy
 - Develop the skills that will be needed to power the UK's manufacturing industry and green economy, using wage growth to address deprivation and inequality
 - Become a great place to 'do business' by proactively investing in offices, connectivity and supporting infrastructure
 - Mitigate the impacts of climate change through green energy planning, improving building efficiency and enhancing natural environments

- Promote partner investment in high-quality education, health and other facilities which should be easy for everyone to access
- Encourage sustainable living and promote good mental and physical health

3.4 In addition, under these strategic pillars, a series of priorities or Council Plan Actions for the period 2023 – 2027 have been identified to facilitate initial delivery towards Vision 2040. The Council Plan Actions are set out in the overarching Vision 2040 document which can be seen in Appendix A.

3.5 Note the inclusion of an additional pillar that focuses on building the capacity, capability and financial resilience of the Council which are enablers for the delivery of Vision 2040. We want to make the Council a great place to work and build a career so that people choose to work for the Council, and we can subsequently deliver for Bassetlaw as a whole.

3.6 Both Vision 2040 and Council Plan Actions proposed as part of the Corporate Plan for 2023 – 2027 have been subject to a public consultation process.

4. Consultation and Responses

4.1 The consultation ran from 27th July to 14th September 2023 with an online consultation form and paper copies available from Customer Services and in Council Offices. In addition, the Vision 2040 document was shared with a wide range of stakeholders and partner organisations, including all Parish Councils.

4.2 Respondents were given the option to support, disagree or say ‘don’t know’ about each of the Vision 2040 pillars and the proposed Council Plan Actions for 2023 – 2027. Respondents that chose disagree were given the option of expanding on this and sharing their views in a free text box.

4.3 A final update on the consultation will be tabled to Members ahead of the Council Meeting following the closure of the consultation on 14th September.

4.4 Members will be asked to determine whether or not the Council should support Vision 2040 and the proposed Council Plan Actions for 2023 – 2027 relative to the feedback received, and whether the document as a whole should be adopted as the Council Plan for 2023 – 2027.

5. Implications

a) For service users

The Vision 2040 and Council Plan will shape the way that the Council addresses the needs of services in the coming years.

b) Strategic & Policy

Vision 2040 sets the Council’s long-term aspirations for Bassetlaw. The Council Plan details the overall strategic direction for the Council for the next four years and will ensure that Council policy is

implemented through its delivery.

c) Financial - 24/59

There remain significant uncertainties about the financing of local government services which may impact upon the Council's ability to deliver on some of the longer-term aspirations. However, this will continue to be monitored through the ongoing review of the Medium Term Financial Plan. The Council will continue to act prudently with the use of public monies whilst at the same time seeking to invest in the District and promote major initiatives that will bring long-term benefit to Bassetlaw.

d) Legal - 096/09/2023

None arising directly from this report.

e) Human Resources

As noted above under 3.5 above, we aspire for the Council to be a great place to work and build a career so that it can deliver for Bassetlaw as a whole. It is recognised that the strategic capacity of the Council will need to be under constant review to deliver the ambitions outlined in Vision 2040.

f) Climate change, Environmental

Both the Vision and Plan set ambitious aspirations for the District in terms of environmental improvements and achieving climate change objectives.

g) Community Safety, Equality and Diversity

None arising directly from this report.

h) GDPR

None arising directly from this report.

i) This is key decision number **1004**

6. Options, Risks and Reasons for Recommendations

6.1 This plan is entirely at Members' discretion within the maximum financial envelope and officer capacity that the Council can sustain.

6.2 The Council needs to consider and establish its priorities to maximise the benefit for local people. The new Vision 2040 and Council Plan provide a focus for an ambitious programme for both the next four years and the longer-term direction of the Council.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 That Council approves the proposals contained within Vision 2040.
- 7.2 That Council approves the priorities or Council Plan Actions contained within the document, becoming the new Corporate Plan for 2023 – 2027.
- 7.3 That progress against the Council Plan Actions is reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis in line with the Council's recently refreshed performance management framework.

Background Papers

Location