CABINET 14 MARCH 2023

*PART 1 - PUBLIC DOCUMENT

TITLE OF REPORT: COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2022-23 (QUARTER 3 UPDATE)

REPORT OF: REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR - RESOURCES

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: FIANANCE AND IT

COUNCIL PRIORITY: PEOPLE FIRST, SUSTAINABILITY, A BRIGHTER FUTURE

TOGETHER

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents progress on delivering the Council Delivery Plan for 22-23 at the end of Quarter 3, which includes:

- Progress against the completion of Council projects and milestones
- Requests to change milestone dates
- Commentary on progress made and any new issues, risks, or opportunities

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That Cabinet notes the progress against Council projects as set out in the Council Delivery Plan (Appendix A) including changes to milestone dates and risks.
- 2.2. That Cabinet notes the completion of the Business Recovery Grants, EV Charging for Council Vehicles and the Help Residents make payments at convenient Location milestones for this year.
- 2.3. That Cabinet notes the reduction in the Local Plan risk score from a 9, to a risk score of 6 following the end of the Judicial review period.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. The Council Delivery Plan (CDP) monitoring reports provide Cabinet with an opportunity to monitor progress against the key Council projects, and understand any new issues, risks, or opportunities.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1. In developing the CDP, it was agreed that Cabinet would receive quarterly updates. The updates are also provided to Overview and Scrutiny Committee so that they can provide additional oversight and support to Cabinet.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

- 5.1. Service Directors and Service Managers have provided updates on progress and will have made Executive Members (and Deputies) aware of progress made.
- 5.2. A draft of the Quarter 3 update was provided to Risk Management Group (RMG) in February. The Group has a standing invite to the Executive Member for Finance and IT (has responsibility for performance monitoring), the Deputy Executive Member for Finance and IT, the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) and the Chair of Finance, Audit and Risk Committee (FAR). Other members of O&S and FAR are also encouraged to attend when they can. RMG were asked to comment on the content and format of the CDP Q3 update.
- 5.3. The CDP is reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and they are asked to provide comments and recommendations to Cabinet.

6. FORWARD PLAN

6.1 This report contains a recommendation on a key Executive decision first notified on the Forward Plan on the 23 January 2023.

7. BACKGROUND

7.1. The CDP brings together projects, risks, and performance indicators together in one document. It was adopted by Cabinet in March 2022, which included the projects to be included within the CDP.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Appendix A provides an update on the progress made in delivering the Council Delivery Plan. Whilst it is labelled as a Quarter 3 update, it generally reflects the latest position at the time that the report was written (mid-February).
- 8.2 Cabinet are asked to approve the following:
 - The proposed change to current milestone dates for Town Centre Recovery, , Cycling Networks, Town Centre Strategies, Empty Homes Strategy and Museum Storage with reasons detailed in Appendix A.
 - The progress made to date against each project and resulting impacts on future milestones, as detailed in the commentary against each project in Appendix A. Future updates will provide monitoring against any revised milestones.
- 8.3 Cabinet are asked to note the following:

- The Completion of the Business Recovery: Grants, the EV Charging for Council Vehicles and the Help Residents make payment at convenient location milestones for this year.
- The intention is that the CDP reports provide an overview, as providing all the details on project milestones would lead to a report that was too long. Requests can be made (especially by O&S) to look at individual projects in more detail. Any such request would be incorporated into the next monitoring report.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The constitution determines the role of Cabinet as including: "To take decisions on resources and priorities, together with other stakeholders and partners in the local community, to deliver and implement the budget and policies decided by the Full Council. To monitor performance and risk in respect of the delivery of those policies and priorities" (paragraph 5.6.3).
- 9.2 The constitution determines the role of Overview and Scrutiny as including: "To review performance against the Council's agreed objectives/ priorities and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/ or service area. To consider risks to the achievement of those objectives/ priorities. To make recommendations to Cabinet" (paragraph 6.2.7 (s)).
- 9.3 There are no specific legal implications arising from the CDP. However, there may be individual legal implications for some of the projects outlined. Any commissioning of work on new and existing projects will follow the standard legal requirements and those required by the Council's internal standing orders, contained within the Constitution.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Where projects are linked to efficiencies or investments then these are included in the budget proposals and monitored through the quarterly finance reports.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The Council Delivery Plan aims to support the risk management process by directly linking the risks to projects being undertaken. The aim of these proposals is to strengthen the link between performance and risk and make risks more current. This should provide an improved perspective of the risks that the Council faces.

12. **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

- 12.2 Performance reporting provides a means to monitor whether the Council is meeting the stated outcomes of the district priorities, its targets or delivering accessible and appropriated services to the Community to meet different people's needs.
- 12.3 As projects progress, Equality Implications will be considered, and Equality Impact Assessments conducted where relevant.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

13.1 The Social Value Act and "go local" requirements do not apply to this report.

14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

14.1 There will continue to be a need to align Council and Service objectives with available people resources to be able to achieve them. The Council Delivery Plan will help to make that link clearer.

15. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 15.1 There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to this report. However, a number of the projects to be monitored throughout the year are related to key environmental issues.
- 15.2 As projects progress, Environmental Implications will be considered, and Environmental Impact Assessments conducted where relevant.

16. APPENDICES

Appendix A – Council Delivery Plan 22-23 Q3 monitoring report

17. CONTACT OFFICERS

- 17.1 Ian Couper, Service Director: Resources ian.couper@north-herts.gov.uk; ext. 4243
- 17.2 Rachel Cooper, Controls, Risk & Performance Manager, Rachel.cooper@north-herts.gov.uk ext. 4606
- 17.3 Jo Keshishian, HR Operations Manager jo.keshishian@north-herts.gov.uk; ext. 4314
- 17.4 Georgina Chapman, Policy Officer georgina.chapman@north-herts.gov.uk, ext. 4121
- 17.5 Isabelle Alajooz, Legal Commercial Team Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer, Isabelle.alajooz@north-herts.gov.uk, ext. 4346

18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None