

## **REPORT TO EXECUTIVE**

**Date of Meeting: 9 October 2018**

**Report of: Chief Executive and Growth Director**

**Title: Corporate Plan – “Our Strategy 2018-21”**

**Is this a Key Decision?** No

**Is this an Executive or Council Function?** Council

### **1. What is the report about?**

1.1 The report presents the council's draft 2018-21 Corporate Plan.

### **2. Recommendations:**

2.1 It is recommended that:

- Executive notes and Council approves the council's 2018-21 draft Corporate Plan.
- Any necessary drafting amendments before publication be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

### **3. Reasons for the recommendation:**

3.1 To endorse publication of the plan, to enable members, employees and stakeholders to be informed about the council's key priorities up to 2021.

### **4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources.**

4.1 There are no resource implications. Funding for any projects or initiatives identified in the plan will be considered as they are approved on an individual basis.

### **5. Section 151 Officer comments:**

5.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from the report for the Council to consider. The Corporate Plan, once adopted, will drive the medium term financial plan going forward in support of delivering a balanced budget for the Council.

### **6. What are the legal aspects?**

6.1 None

### **7. Monitoring Officer's comments:**

7.1 None

### **8. Report details:**

8.1 The aim of the Corporate Plan is:

- to promote understanding and ownership of the council's achievements, direction and priorities;

- to set out some of the key actions the council will be taking;
- to enable reporting on progress with priorities

8.2 The plan sets out how, as leaders of the city and the council, we will:

- Help deliver the emerging Exeter Vision 2040, by providing services and developments that build on Exeter's growth and success and meet local communities' aspirations
- Focus on three strategic programmes that address the current, major challenges facing the city:
  - Promote active and healthy lifestyles
  - Build great neighbourhoods
  - Tackle congestion and accessibility
- Provide value-for-money services despite continuing central government budget reductions
- Lead a well-run council

8.3 In December 2017, we invited a team from the Local Government Association, comprising members and officers from other councils to undertake a Corporate Peer Challenge. The peer team commended our role as leaders of place and how we work with our partners to influence and shape the city and the wider area both now and in the future:

*"The council can be proud of its prominent role to position Exeter as one of country's leading cities and as a principal business location in the South West and the benefits that this has provided for residents, stakeholders and businesses."*

*"Exeter City Council can justifiably take pride in its leadership role, over the last 15 years, in promoting economic growth."*

8.4 The peer team also concluded that a number of factors demand a re-balancing of our focus on the wider Exeter area with our focus on the interests of the city and the council as an organisation. This was a point highlighted by the Corporate Peer Challenge:

*"The council has managed a period of change since 2010 in response to austerity. These include: setting aside unitary government proposals; reducing staff numbers (by 100) to 685 over the last five years; delivering the spending cuts needed without detrimental impact on services ... This backdrop of reduced resources and managing significant change makes the achievements of economic growth even more impressive."*

*"The council has reached a point where some major programmes of work now need priority, for example around digital transformation, organisational change and commercialisation."*

8.5 Changes in the way customers access our services in a digital world, the changing nature of the workplace, commercial opportunities and ICT-enabled, new ways of working and delivering services, all require us to turn our attention to the transformation of the council. Faced with the Government's ongoing austerity

measures, operating costs were reduced by £1.27m in 2017-18 and we need to reduce operating costs by an additional £3.9m over the next two years

8.6 The plan is intended primarily as an electronic document that is simple to navigate and provides easy access for members, officers and the public. The plan can also be easily printed in a readable format and hard copies will be available on request.

**9. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?**

9.1 The risks of projects or initiatives identified in the plan will be assessed as they are approved on an individual basis and included in the Council's Risk Register as appropriate.

**10. What is the impact of the decision on equality and diversity; health and wellbeing; safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults, community safety and the environment?**

10.1 The impact of the projects or initiatives identified in the plan will be assessed as they are approved on an individual basis.

**Karime Hassan**  
**Chief Executive and Growth Director**

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)**

**Background papers used in compiling this report:-**

None

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