

Council Plan Annex – Scrutiny report

<p>Overview and Scrutiny Commission 18 October 2023</p>	
<p>Having reviewed the Council Plan, the Commission would recommend to the Executive the following areas of focus, when reviewing the Council Plan:</p>	<p>Officer response to support Executive consideration:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 27 (Green and Sustainable Environment) That a new metric is added related to the amount of renewable energy generated on the council estate. 	<p>Possible metrics related to renewable energy have been explored for inclusion within the Council Plan. A new key result of increasing renewable energy generated through wind and solar could be added to the plan within the goal of “There is collective action to address the climate and biodiversity emergency”. It is recommended that the Executive consider the specific options below for measuring this key result and indicate a preference for one:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kilowatts generated through council estate (report twice a year, or annually, due to seasonal fluctuations). • Kilowatt capacity of renewable energy production across the council estate (report quarterly)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 15 (Engaged and Healthy Communities) Retain all schools and early years settings to be good and outstanding however include reference to this being in line with the Bracknell Forest standard as set out in the improvement strategy. 	<p>The measure currently in the draft plan refers to a specific data set of combining percentage of early years providers rated good or outstanding and percentage schools rated good or outstanding, both referring to Ofsted.</p> <p>Whilst there is significant importance of the wider school improvement work, identifying a specific data set that could be measured quarterly for the four year period is limited as only maintained schools are part of the strategy. It may therefore be more appropriate that this is referenced within the directorate service plan (People directorate) as an action that can have specific/qualitative updates for reporting.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 19 (Green and Sustainable Environment) To explore a suitable performance measure related to climate change resilience within the plan, such as related to sewage releases. 	<p>All measures within the plan reflect indicators that the council has some influence over, albeit not always direct control. Sewage release is not an action the council can control.</p> <p>The opportunity for wider measures of resilience and adaptation to climate change has been explored including adaptations to roads, flood preparation etc. However, a suitable and specific metric could not be identified at this time that would provide constructive performance information. It is therefore recommended that activity and initiatives to address resilience to climate change are contained within directorate service plans.</p> <p>Specifically related to sewage releases, there is limited influence of the council. Conditions are attached to</p>

	relevant planning applications to ensure that there is suitable sewage treatment capacity. When considering drainage proposals as part of planning applications, the lead local flood authority ensures that the correct climate change assumptions are included in the modelling on which any proposed scheme is based.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 17 (Thriving and Connected Communities) To consider if there is appropriate emphasis or further inclusion needed related to ageing infrastructure that goes beyond routine maintenance. 	Data metrics have been explored related to aging infrastructure however there are limited measures to quantify this, particularly for the improvements to be made. It may be more appropriate to include activity and projects to address ageing infrastructure within the directorate level service plans. Specific activity would be contained within the Place, Planning and Regeneration, and Delivery service plans.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose that at the end of the four year cycle the plan was brought back to the Commission with a summary report. 	No further comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 19 (Green and Sustainable Environment) Request an amendment to the goal of 'Local transport networks provide choice in travel' to local transport networks provide 'safe' choice in travel 	No further comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 27 (Green and Sustainable Environment) That KR341 be amended to include 'other operators' after TVB. 	Including wider bus routes was explored as part of the original development of the key result, to identify as comprehensive a metric as possible. However, the council does not regularly or consistently receive information for other operators, partly because there is not contractual arrangement. It is therefore not possible to have a reliable measure for all bus travel, only those related to TVB network routes. TVB bus routes cover approximately 60% of commercial bus routes in the borough and all council subsidised services.

Summary of key points of discussion

- The commitment to climate change and reaching net zero was acknowledged as positive. However, the importance of adding a metric regarding renewable energy was requested.
- O&S Commission members were happy with the ambitious targets within the plan but were keen to have the opportunity for the plan to return to the Commission in four years so that they could comprehensively review the performance.
- O&S Commission members acknowledged the importance of the point around children having quality education and opportunities to fulfil their potential but felt that this should be linked to Ofsted ratings and the Bracknell Forest standard.
- Whilst acknowledging that maintenance budgets cover infrastructure improvements the O&S Commission members were keen to ensure that the ageing nature of the infrastructure within the borough was considered and felt this could be an important aspect to link with development of new initiatives such as improvements in road maintenance.