

Blaby District Council

Cabinet Executive

Date of Meeting	4 July 2022
Title of Report	Blaby District Plan – Peer Review and Annual Priorities 2022-23 This is not a Key Decision and is on the Forward Plan
Lead Member	Cllr. Terry Richardson - Leader of the Council
Report Author	Chief Executive
Corporate Priority	All Priorities: A Place to Live; A Place to Work; A Place to Visit; People Strategy; Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 This report sets out the action plan in response to the peer review and the annual plan for 2022-23 for approval

2. Recommendation(s) to Cabinet Executive and Council

- 2.1 That the cabinet resolve to recommend to Council that the action plan in response to the peer review is approved.
- 2.2 That the cabinet resolve to recommend to Council that the annual priorities for the Blaby District Plan be approved.

3. Reason for Decisions Recommended

- 3.1 The peer review process requires an action plan to be developed and approved by Council in response to the peer review report.
- 3.2 The Blaby District Plan, approved by Council in January 2021, sets out the priorities for the Council for the period 2021- 24. An annual plan sets out the aspirations and intent of the Council for the year ahead.

4. Matters to consider

4.1 Peer Review

In March 22 the Local Government Association (LGA) conducted a peer review of the Council. The review was welcomed and provides an opportunity to look at the things we do well but also the things we can do to make the Council even better. The full report is included at appendix A,

overall results of the peer review were really positive and a few highlights are captured below:-

- We are a well run local authority
- We are in a sound financial position, with strong leadership and committed staff
- There is a real ownership from officers and members for everyone to do their best for Blaby
- We have delivered well through covid, responding to the Huncote site emergency and responding to our residents and customers needs
- We are highly respected by our partners and residents
- We are self aware and open to challenge.

4.2 Peer Review Action Plan

The process of an LGA peer review as mentioned above is also to challenge ourselves to improve and as expected the team have identified a series of recommendations for us to consider as follows:

- Along with key partners, develop and lead a long-term vision for Blaby as a place/district.
- Review the council's corporate plan to drive the council and its priorities forward, post pandemic.
- Develop a corporate performance management framework, including service plans and personal appraisals.
- Develop an overall delivery/business plan, including targets, building on your Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and other plans, to address local government financial challenges.
- Define what transformation means to the council and any consequent organisational change required.
- Define what commerciality will mean for the council, and challenge members' and officers' appetite for risk.
- Use communications to full effect throughout the council, eg to best engage with customers, promote your achievements and services.
- Review and refresh the scrutiny function.

In response to these and the full report a proposed action plan has been developed and is attached at appendix B for members to consider and hopefully approve.

The LGA require us to formally:

- Publish the peer review report by the beginning of August
- Publish our action plan by mid August
- Undertake with the LGA a 6 month progress review of our delivery of the action plan

4.3 Annual Plan background

In 2021 Council approved the Blaby District Plan which sets out the Council's vision and priorities from 2021- 24. This was a high level, strategic document which confirmed the Council's aspirations around three themes, A Place to Live, A Place to Work and, A Place to Visit.

It is important that the high level ambitions are translated into key activities so that the delivery of the Plan can be measured. These actions are identified in the Annual Plan, attached for approval at Appendix A.

The delivery of the Plan will be monitored by the Senior Leadership Team, Portfolio Holders and Scrutiny. A half yearly update against the plan will be presented to the Cabinet Executive in November 22.

4.4 The Annual Plan 22-23

Given the peer review, and our corporate plan the focus for this year will be, Transformation, concentrating on service delivery and financial challenges; understanding where we are through a new performance framework and service planning and looking after our people both staff and members. Many of the actions within the peer review action plan have been encompassed with the annual plan.

There are some specific activities work highlighting within the plan which include:

- Development on a long term vision for the Blaby District
- Employee and member development
- Development of a financial plan linked to transformation to support in addressing the budget gap
- Development of our approach to commerciality and our risk appetite
- A review of our Human Resources and Communications Services
- Ensuring our approach to the climate and green is reflected in all policies
- Submitting funding bids to support our aspirations for the district.
- Progressing our work around the local plan development
- Homelessness and housing provision and identifying ways to address our growing demands
- Contaminated land management and recovery from the Huncote site emergency

4.5 Relevant Consultations

A public consultation process was undertaken as part of the Blaby District Plan process and, that feedback has been incorporated into the annual plan.

4.6 Significant Issues

All relevant considerations have been encompassed within the report.

5. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

- 5.1 The annual budget, approved by Council on 18th February 2022, supports the delivery of the Blaby District Plan.

6. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

6.1

Current Risk	Actions to reduce the risks
That the actions within the plan are not delivered	Effective management processes in place to monitor the delivery of the plan or, to consider and necessary mitigation
That issues / challenges arise which are not detailed within the Plan	The plan is a flexible, working document which will be reviewed regularly to reflect and necessary changes

7. Other options considered

No other options have been considered. It is appropriate that there is an action plan in place to support the delivery of the Blaby District Plan

8. Environmental impact

The green agenda is a key priority for the Council and, there are actions within the annual plan which support the delivery of this priority.

9. Other significant issues

9.1 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities, and Climate Local and there are no areas of concern.

10. Appendix

10.1 Appendix A – Peer Review Report
Appendix B – Peer Review Action Plan
Appendix C – Blaby District Plan – Annual Plan 2021-22

11. Background paper(s)

11.1 The Blaby District Plan 2021-24

12. Report author's contact details

Julia Smith	Chief Executive
Julia.Smith@blaby.gov.uk	0116 272 7516