

# Annual Corporate Performance Report 2020/21

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021

Report of: Director of Resources

Report to: Executive Board

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

## **What is this report about?**

### **Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions**

- The Best Council Plan is Leeds City Council's strategic planning document and sets out what the council, working in partnership, will do to deliver better outcomes across Leeds. The Plan informs the council's budget setting and financial strategies and is an essential tool for planning and delivering services. It also helps our staff understand how the work they do makes a real difference to the people of Leeds and shows our partners how we contribute to city-wide priorities.
- Our ambition as set out in the Best Council Plan is for Leeds to be the best city with the best council in the UK: a city that is compassionate with a strong economy, tackling poverty and inequalities; a council that is an efficient, enterprising and healthy organisation.
- Supporting the Best Council Plan are a range of council and partnership plans and strategies. These include the Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy, Leeds Health & Wellbeing Strategy, Leeds Transport Strategy, Leeds Children & Young People's Plan, Age-Friendly Leeds Strategy, Leeds Culture Strategy, Leeds Housing Strategy, Safer Leeds Plan and the council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy, Budget and Capital Programme. Additionally, linked to the Best Council Plan are the Equality Improvement Priorities, with reports looking back at progress made in 2020 – 2021 and the new and Equality Improvement Priorities for 2021 – 2025 being considered at the same Executive Board meeting as this performance report.
- In line with best practice, performance against all such supporting plans and strategies is considered by a wide range of stakeholders relevant to their roles and areas of interest: for example by partnership boards (such as the Children and Families Trust Board, Health and Wellbeing Board and the Safer Leeds community safety partnership), Executive Board, Scrutiny Boards, Community Committees, service management teams, external regulatory bodies and inspectorates (including Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission) and members of the public.
- This annual report looks back on progress made during 2020/21 in delivering against our ambitions, outcomes and priorities set out in the Best Council Plan. These are supported by

a range of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)<sup>1</sup> which provide us with measurable evidence of how well we are performing against the Best Council Plan.

- Clearly, the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with the ongoing financial challenges facing the council, will have a major impact on progress against objectives and our ability to measure progress. More broadly, the pandemic has highlighted and sometimes exacerbated the stubborn and longstanding inequalities the city faces, but also the urgent need to adapt to and mitigate against climate change.
- The results for some indicators have been affected by the pandemic, with a number being temporarily suspended. In some instances, there is a lag between the dates that the KPI results relate to and when they are published. Future results for these KPIs will act as a way of measuring how on track the council and the city are to recovering to pre-pandemic performance levels.

## **Recommendations**

- a) Executive Board is asked to receive the annual performance report and note the progress made during 2020/21 in delivering the ambitions and priorities set out in the Best Council Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> Appendix 1 shows the year-end position of the KPIs

## Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 The annual report seen in Appendix 1 presents a year-end stocktake, looking back on how we have performed during 2020/21 in delivering the Best Council Plan but also signposting to future performance challenges. The report provides a useful resource for elected members and staff to draw on to help 'tell the story of Leeds' confidently and consistently.
- 2 The report aims to provide an open and honest assessment, showcasing achievements that the council and the city can be proud of but also where challenges remain and further improvements are needed. The report acknowledges that these are exceptionally tough times for performance and should be viewed in this context.
- 3 The report will provide a key source of evidence on the authority's performance management arrangements contributing to the Annual Governance Statement to be considered later this year by the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee.

## What impact will this proposal have?

### Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?  Yes  No

- 4 The performance information contained in the appendix is provided for Executive Board's information.
- 5 This is an assurance report with no decision required, so it is not necessary to conduct an equality impact assessment. However, some of the key performance indicators included within the appendix are linked to wider issues of equality and diversity, and cohesion and integration.

## What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 6 The annual performance report at Appendix 1 has been subject to consultation with key officers. Performance against portfolio areas is also reviewed by the respective council Scrutiny Boards, most recently in June 2021.
- 7 This is an information report and as such does not need to be consulted on with the public. However, summary information on the key performance indicators is published on the council's website.

## What are the resource implications?

- 8 The Best Council Plan provides the strategic context for the council's budget and financial strategies with resources allocated in support of the Plan's ambitions, outcomes and priorities. Effectively monitoring and managing performance helps ensure that resources continue to be appropriately deployed.

## What are the legal implications?

- 9 The Annual Corporate Performance Report is subject to call in.
- 10 Assurance on the council's performance management arrangements is provided through an annual report to the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee as part of a suite of evidence to support sign-off of the Annual Governance Statement. The report contains details on the effectiveness of these arrangements in terms of how the Best Council Plan

and key performance indicators are kept up to date, effectively communicated and monitored with action taken as appropriate.

### **What are the key risks and how are they being managed?**

- 11 There are no risks associated with this annual report. The key risks that could impact upon delivery of the Best Council Plan objectives, and details on how they are managed are included in the Corporate Risk Management annual report, considered by this Board at the same meeting.

### **Does this proposal support the council's three Key Pillars?**

Inclusive Growth       Health and Wellbeing       Climate Emergency

- 12 The performance results included in this report support all three pillars as they show the results achieved against each in 2020/21. The report includes specific sections on Inclusive Growth and Health and Wellbeing performance, whilst Climate Emergency aspects are included within the Sustainable Infrastructure section.

### **Options, timescales and measuring success**

#### **a) What other options were considered?**

- 13 Not applicable

#### **b) How will success be measured?**

- 14 The report is a backwards looking report which summarise the performance in 2020/21 against the Best Council Plan. The key performance indicators can be used to measure progress and success in the future as the council and the city recover from the challenges of the past year.

#### **c) What is the timetable for implementation?**

- 15 The report is for information purposes and relates to the previous municipal year 2020/21. The key performance indicators will be used again in 2021/22 to measure performance against the Best Council Plan.

### **Appendices**

- 16 Appendix 1: Annual Corporate Performance Report 2020/21

### **Background papers**

- 17 None