

FUTURE40 - LONG-TERM VISION FOR EPSOM AND EWELL

Head of Service/Contact: Damian Roberts, Chief Operating Officer

Urgent Decision?(yes/no) No

If yes, reason urgent decision required:

Annexes/Appendices (attached): **Annex 1: 'Our Vision, Epsom and Ewell'**

Other available papers (not attached): Reports to Strategy and Resources Committee, 30 July 2019, 26 July 2018.

Report summary

Future40 has been a Council led initiative to develop a long-term vision for Epsom and Ewell. It involved the largest consultation and engagement exercise ever undertaken in the borough. The new 'Our Vision Epsom and Ewell', is the culmination of this extensive resident and stakeholder engagement. The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the draft 'Our Vision' document.

Recommendation (s)

The Committee are asked to:

- (1) agree 'Our Vision Epsom and Ewell' document, attached at Annex 1;**
- (2) delegate to the Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer in consultation with the Chairman of Strategy and Resources any final design or minor drafting changes to the Vision document before its publication;**
- (3) endorse officers seeking opportunities to engage with partner organisations, from the public, private and voluntary sectors, oversee delivery of the Council's Vision.**

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1 Implications for the Council's Key Priorities, Service Plans and Sustainable Community Strategy

- 1.1 The current Corporate Plan 2016 to 2020 is due to end on 31 March 2020.
- 1.2 Epsom and Ewell's new long-term vision has a key role in setting the direction of the Council's 2020-2024 corporate plan, along with other emerging Council strategies and plans.
- 1.3 The themes emerging from the new approach to service planning and delivery will be:



2 Background

- 2.1 On 26 July 2018, the Strategy and Resources Committee agreed to develop a new long-term vision for the borough and the type of engagement process that would be fundamental to that process.
- 2.2 The approach agreed by Members reflects the Council's vital community leadership and resident engagement role. It demonstrates that the Council is listening to its local community, is not just focused on the actions it is taking today, but also has a keen eye on the borough's future. This is important as decisions taken today can have a significant bearing on future including the environmental, social and economic outcomes for Epsom and Ewell.

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- 2.3 It is also the case that improving outcomes in these and other important areas often requires a sustained focus over the short, medium and longer-term and relies on the support and coordination of other key stakeholders (Health, Police, Business, Voluntary Groups etc) working alongside the local authority.
- 2.4 The approach agreed by the Council also reflected the need for a clear evidence base of the drivers impacting on the borough and the analysis of the quantitative and qualitative data on the views and aspirations that local people have for Epsom and Ewell.
- 2.5 The Strategy and Resources Committee at its meeting on the 30 July 2019 considered the quantitative and qualitative data collected throughout the Future40 engagement process, and agreed the draft document for a period of further stakeholder engagement.

3 Stakeholder Engagement

- 3.1 The Council has now held a range of key stakeholder meetings, either as one to ones, in groups or wider workshops. This includes meetings and discussions with Epsom Hospital, the Business Improvement District, Epsom Racecourse, the University of the Creative Arts, the Citizen's Panel, Age Concern Epsom and Ewell, Citizens' Advice and the Food Bank. The outcome from these meetings is a commitment to work in collaboration with the Council to oversee its delivery.
- 3.2 This was an important exercise as the new Vision cannot be delivered by any one organisation alone, but requires instead, the support and cooperation of others.

4 Publication of the new vision

- 4.1 To assist with the on-going communication and dissemination of Epsom and Ewell's new Vision, a short booklet has been drawn together to enable the Vision to be shared on-line and also where needed in hard copy. This is attached at **Annex 1**.

5 Delivery arrangements

- 5.1 However well-founded and articulated a vision is on paper, its real value is derived from the actions and outcomes that are delivered as a result. It is therefore important to consider how this long-term Vision will start to shape and drive positive change in the Borough.

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- 5.2 There are a number of opportunities over the coming year for the new Vision for Epsom and Ewell to inform the direction of the Council's work, setting the context and direction for a number of important work streams. This includes the approval and implementation of the Council's new corporate plan, which will be known as 'Four Year Plan 2020-2024', which is the subject of a separate report to the Committee.

6 New corporate plan

- 6.1 The Council's new corporate plan has provided an important opportunity for the new Council to set out its delivery priorities for the next four years, reflecting Member aspirations and informed by the new Vision for Epsom and Ewell including the significant resident and stakeholder engagement that has taken place in recent months through Future40. The focus will be on deliverability, carefully balancing ambition with available resources and making the most of opportunities to work in partnership with others.
- 6.2 As well as the new corporate plan, other key plans and work programmes will be informed by the new Vision for Epsom and Ewell, this includes:
- The Climate Change Action Plan
 - Asset Management Plan
 - The investment in and expanded use of the Market Place
 - Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Action Plan
 - Community Safety and Enforcement Plan
 - The Local Plan and related policies
- 6.3 The new vision will also give increased weight and context to the Council's existing work such as Enterprise and Income Generation, and Economic Development and Business Support, etc. It will also inform work on the development of a future Cultural Strategy for the Borough.
- 6.3 The value of the 'Our Vision Epsom and Ewell' is not in the document itself but the degree to which it influences activity across the Borough. The launch and communication of the Vision is, therefore important. There will be a programme of communications activity within the Council to embed the Plan within the working of all our teams and as a guide to our working with partners and stakeholders.

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7 Financial and Manpower Implications

- 7.1 The work on Future40 has been supported by an agreed budget of £45,000 which has been used to meet the costs of all the resident and stakeholder engagement and communication activities, events, surveys and research that has taken place over the engagement programme and fund the design and print costs associated with the final Vision.
- 7.2 **Chief Finance Officer's comments:** The visioning budget has been funded by £20,000 from the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant reserve and the remaining £25,000 funded from within the revenue budget for 2018/19 by aligning the work with other existing activities related to Economic Development, Planning and Community Wellbeing.

8 Legal Implications (including implications for matters relating to equality)

- 8.1 The Local Government Act 2000 gave local authorities the power to act to promote the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of their area. More than a decade later, this power was updated and further extended by the Localism Act 2011, which introduces a general power of competence, ie "a local authority has power to do anything that individuals generally may do".
- 8.2 There is no legal requirement for the council to adopt a vision, however, such a document provides an evidence base to support a policy framework and context upon which the Council can direct its decision making.
- 8.3 As a public body, the Council is required to meet its statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equal opportunities between people from different groups and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it. In the adoption of the plan, it is not considered that there would be any negative impacts on any of the protected characteristics, although in the delivery of individual strategies and action plans that underpin the corporate plan, equality impact assessments will be undertaken where necessary.
- 8.4 **Monitoring Officer's comments:** none arising from the contents of this report.

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9 Sustainability Policy and Community Safety Implications

- 9.1 The proposals set out in this report are designed to make a positive contribution to making Epsom and Ewell a more sustainable place in both the shorter and longer-term. In particular, the emerging theme of Green and Vibrant recognises the importance of tackling climate change, the value of the boroughs' green infrastructure, sustainable building design, clean air and bio diversity.

10 Partnerships

- 10.1 Developing a longer-term vision for the Borough is a partnership endeavour. It builds on the Council's positive relationships and increasing track record at partnership working. In developing a longer-term vision for the borough, the Council will engage with the key organisations in the borough from the private, public and voluntary sectors.

11 Risk Assessment

- 11.1 There are significant potential risks of not having a long-term vision for the Borough that has the buy-in of both residents and partners. The Council's actions to develop a long-term vision for Epsom and Ewell and the comprehensive approach taken to the community and stakeholder engagement through Future40, can be seen to have substantially addressed this risk.

12 Conclusion and Recommendations

- 12.1 Following a thorough resident and stakeholder engagement process the Council now has a long-term vision that reflects the clear views of local people and stakeholders about their priorities for the future of their borough. There is now an opportunity for the Council to work with relevant partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors, to ensure that through a wide range of future initiatives and actions, the new vision is delivered on the ground.

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);