



**BUDGET & COUNCIL PLAN COMMITTEE:  
10 JANUARY 2023**

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**Report of: Corporate Director of Transformation, Housing & Resources**

**Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor Cllr Adam Yates**

**Contact for further information: Name (Extn. ) Alison Grimes x3211  
(E-mail: [alison.grimes@westlancs.gov.uk](mailto:alison.grimes@westlancs.gov.uk))**

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**SUBJECT: COUNCIL PLAN DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

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Wards affected: Borough wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To update the Committee with progress on the development of the new Council Plan.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the update is noted.
- 2.2 That any comments are provided.

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**3.0 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 In September 2022 the Committee approved principles and a development timetable for a new Council Plan from October 2023-2028.
- 3.2 The timetable for the review has been updated to reflect recent survey work.

<b>Process key steps</b>	<b>Estimated timescale</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Committee agree principles for development	September 2022	Complete
Engagement with Councillors, key stakeholders and key staff seeking views on current plan – Pulse survey	18 Nov – 5 Dec (extended to 11 December)	Complete
Committee update on survey responses and draft plan	10 January	
Committee review a Version 1.0 of new Plan	28 February	

– based on views on current Plan and agreed principles  Committee to review and approve for Councillor workshop		
Councillor workshop – to seek views on revised Plan	15 March	
Committee review a Version 2.0 of new Plan – incorporating workshop feedback  Committee to review and approve draft for public consultation	24 May	
Public/stakeholder/Councillor/Staff consultation	June/July/August 2023	
Committee review Version 3.0 of new Plan – incorporating public consultation  Committee to review and approve for Scrutiny/Cabinet/Council	12 September 2023 – BCP Committee  September 2023 - Executive Overview & Scrutiny; Cabinet  October 2023 - Council	

- 3.3 The Corporate Director of Transformation, Housing and Resources will revise the timetable to accommodate purdah and any other operational requirements as appropriate, to maintain progress on the development for October 2023.
- 3.4 The second step in the timetable above - the 'pulse' survey – has now been completed. This gave the first opportunity for those most involved with the Plan to give feedback on its current form. All Borough Councillors, key stakeholders and key staff were invited to take part in the survey.
- 3.5 The survey ran from 18<sup>th</sup> November, with the closing date extended from 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> December and a reminder was issued on 30<sup>th</sup> November. There were 44 responses received from a target audience of 135 (32.5% overall response rate) made from stakeholders (3); Councillors (11) and staff (30).

#### **4.0 CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 Whilst this is a low return from which to draw definite conclusions, the feedback does provide some indication of general views on the plan and the prioritisation of the 32 'wants' from the target group. To ensure Members have visibility of the range of feedback provided at this stage, full responses are given in Appendix 1.
- 4.2 This feedback along with other insight will now be used to inform subsequent development work and the first draft of the Plan. This will be brought to the next committee in preparation for the Councillor workshop.
- 4.3 As approved at the September meeting of BCPC, the draft Plan will retain the current Vision and have a revised structure to provide a clearer reporting mechanism. This will be assisted through priorities being simplified and wants/outcomes re-ordered to sit within these priorities. The draft development will also follow the previously approved principles that a new Plan will:
- Contain a Vision, Priorities and Outcomes

- Retain the existing Vision
- Ensure that outcomes outline single issues with a focus on measurable improvements for the customer/borough
- Provide clear alignment between Priorities and Outcomes and a delivery plan (actions', KPIs & Risks)

#### **4.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this report and no significant impact on crime and disorder.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no significant financial or resource implications arising from this report.

#### **6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

6.1 The actions referred to in this report are covered by the scheme of delegation to officers and any necessary changes have been made in the relevant risk registers.

#### **7.0 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report, although the Plan it refers to will have implications.

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#### **Background Documents**

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

## Appendix A - Summary of responses

In response to the question: *Which of these areas from our current Council Plan do you believe we should focus our energy on in the next 5 years? Please select your top 10*

Priority	Want	No. returns	% respondents selecting option
Empowered	Healthy resilient and engaged communities that work together to improve the places they live and work	25	57
Greener	To safeguard the natural landscape and maintain our green environment	23	52
Healthy	To invest in sports and leisure services and facilities	20	45
Clean, safe	A Local Plan that supports quality growth and infrastructure in the Borough	18	41
Healthy	An engaged and motivated Council workforce	18	41
Greener	Council housing stock to meet high standards of efficiency - insulation, design, technology	18	41
Support businesses	To support our businesses to succeed and grow	18	41
Greener	To become a Carbon Neutral Council by 2030	17	39
Clean, safe	West Lancashire to be safe for all citizens	16	36
Empowered	Councillors that are active and knowledgeable and support change at a local level	14	32
Empowered	Everyone to have the same opportunities	14	32
Financially sustainable	To continue to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of service provision	14	32
Financially sustainable	To maximise available government funding and generate income to reinvest in West Lancashire	14	32
Support businesses	West Lancashire to be the place of choice to locate your business	14	32
Empowered	To improve customer satisfaction	13	30
Clean, safe	To provide quality and genuinely affordable homes	13	30
Support businesses	A vibrant and modern Ormskirk market that attracts visitors to the town centre	12	27
Empowered	To work with partners for the good of local people	12	27
Businesses	Our 3 towns to be thriving hubs for their communities	11	25

Financially sustainable	To be confident, capable and financially sustainable	11	25
Healthy	To design services that help people stay healthy and independent	11	25
Greener	To embed green infrastructure into our thinking and planning for West Lancashire's future development and regeneration	11	25
Healthy	To protect, invest and continue to develop our green leisure spaces	11	25
Empowered	Thriving voluntary and community groups that support innovation and collaboration	10	23
Healthy	To help businesses in West Lancashire to thrive, grow and connect	10	23
Financially sustainable	To provide value for money services	10	23
Support businesses	A strong rural business economy	9	20
Greener	Local business and citizens to embrace the green agenda	8	18
Empowered	Our citizens to access the benefits of being digitally engaged	8	18
Greener	To minimise waste disposal and improve recycling services to meet national targets	8	18
Financially sustainable	To be able to invest in high priority service areas	4	9
Clean, safe	To provide a cleaner physical environment to enhance the Borough	4	9

<b>Key</b>	<b>Council Plan Priority</b>
Empowered	Create empowered, engaged and inclusive communities
Greener	Become a Greener West Lancashire
Healthy	Everyone to be healthy, happy, safe and resilient
Clean, safe	A clean, safe environment with affordable homes to buy or rent for everyone in West Lancashire
Support businesses	Support businesses to adapt and prosper
Financially sustainable	Be a financially sustainable Council by 2023
	Everyone to be proud of their Council

In response to the question: *If you think any additional key areas of focus should be considered in the Council Plan, please tell us*

It should read a "Local Plan that safeguards the natural environment"
Reducing greenspace access inequalities and encouraging active modes of travel across the borough.
Responding to climate change - reducing, adapting to and mitigating the effects
Better transport facilities in Skelmersdale especially. Taxi service is awful also restricting a lot of people from going out or visiting places. This will encourage more to invest here
To ensure that no projects such as the Simmonswood Incinerator is allowed to go ahead and destroy local farming and our precious greenbelt. The council needs to be more proactive to protect what we have
Develop partnership working with neighbouring authorities to improve efficiency and quality of services
There should also be an explicit priority to "Actively seek increased joint service delivery with other councils and public bodies"
A commitment to work with partners and the voluntary sector to support the most vulnerable in the community.
Invest in mental health services or the ability to signpost residents to the support they might need
We need a priority or theme that recognises the high percentage of older people in our Borough
We should stop the ceaseless pursuit of income generation. There may be some areas where we can generate more income but in general, we are not equipped to be entrepreneurial
Whilst we have said would commit to decency of Council Housing stock, should we include a reference to being a good Landlord with good quality homes and services?
To become a digital council
New refreshed code of conduct linked to members, so that what it emerged from the induction process, is effective change ambassadors, that are visible, innovative and kind
No mention of customer engagement

In response to the question (stakeholders): *What are the main themes or priorities of your organisation where you feel there is synergy with those of West Lancashire Borough Council and that we should consider for our future plan?*

Support for the most vulnerable members of the West Lancs Community Health, wellbeing and the resilience of the community Financial Inclusion Anti-poverty strategy and actions Support for local charities and social businesses Connection partners and residents with the green agenda Start for early years Support for older residents Creating connected communities Support for volunteering in West Lancs Life-long learning e.g., digital skills
To work to make Wrightington a safe place to live, a thriving rural community where residents and businesses support each other for mutual benefit. To maintain existing Green Belt and fight to prevent development of Green Belt and green spaces, ensuring that previously developed land and brownfield sites only are earmarked for development, and to ensure that Wrightington remains a desirable place to live within the Borough.
To promote health and wellbeing across the borough

In response to the question (stakeholders): *If you have any other comments on the Current Plan, please provide them*

Ensuring that VCFSE (Voluntary, Community, Faith; Social Businesses are financially supported to be able to participate and help community engagement, support and participation in the WLBC plan.
Utilising renewable and green technology to benefit housing tenants to keep their bills low while helping the move towards carbon reduction is vital moving forward.
It would be great if we could reduce our priorities into 3 / 4 key themes with transformational programmes of work aligned to them, supporting better connected outcomes to be delivered and more efficient / effective reporting mechanisms to emerge
There is limited reference to how we are shaping self-serve and digital service delivery, or any plans for this. Whilst we refer to customer satisfaction i think that we need to also have a reference to customer engagement and consultation and that these elements should form part of our commitments in our future plans
Needs to be more focus on the social progress pillar of sustainable development.
Need to make sure that there is no duplication and that these key areas aren't "tasks" in themselves but the change we want to see. Must have specific tasks / measures and timescales against these key areas. Needs to be a focus on making sure the council itself is fit for purpose to deliver all this - e.g staffing, finance, transformation. If the council isn't in a good place it won't deliver what it could (on its own or with others).
The Council Plan should be exactly that, a plan with clear, SMART objectives. Strategic Tactics need to be developed to ensure that activity is effectively resourced and prioritised. All stakeholders (staff, citizens, Businesses, community groups etc) should be able to understand exactly what the Council Plan objectives are and be able to see if the council is succeeding in meeting them. Performance data should be published
It's positive that an inclusive process is being adopted from this early stage. We all want the best in spite of political differences. Given the financial constraints we face, while we must always be ambitious, we need to temper that with some realism.
My only comment is that it is good to see the priorities to comment on and I hope it all helps the new Council Plan moving forward.