

North Lanarkshire Council Report

Policy and Strategy Committee

approval noting

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Strategic Policy Framework update report

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Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of the work which has been ongoing since the development of a streamlined Strategic Policy Framework was approved by the former Policy and Resources Committee in September 2018.

The framework incorporates the high level strategies, policies and plans that underpin the delivery of the Plan for North Lanarkshire and supporting Programme of Work.

This report provides an update of progress with reviews of strategies within the framework and details ongoing work to ensure the framework continues to underpin the delivery of the Plan for North Lanarkshire.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Policy and Strategy Committee:

1. notes progress with the review of strategies incorporated in the Strategic Policy Framework;
2. notes review guidelines have been refreshed including the use of templates for sub policies, and
3. otherwise notes the contents of the report.

The Plan for North Lanarkshire

Priority All priorities

Ambition statement All ambition statements

1. Background

- 1.1 Members will recall the report *North Lanarkshire – Our Ambition* set out a business model for reshaping plans and investment for future regeneration activity. This report identified five priority project areas which included a review of our approach to policy and practice across the council.
- 1.2 A review of high level strategies, policies and plans (hereafter referred to as strategies) was therefore undertaken to create a streamlined Strategic Policy Framework.
- 1.3 Progress with the framework was reported to Policy and Strategy Committee, as part of a report on the *Plan for North Lanarkshire* in February, CMT in April and Audit and Scrutiny Panel in May 2019.

2. Strategic Policy Framework - progress to date

2.1 Timetable

- 2.1.1 All 31 strategies in the framework are on a timetable for review (or development) this calendar year – excluding some longer term partnership strategies such as the ten year Glasgow City Region Economic Strategy which is due for review in 2020. The timetable includes strategies that are subject to separate reports to this Policy and Strategy Committee such as the new Economic Regeneration Delivery Plan. A full list of review dates for strategies is attached as Appendix 1.
- 2.1.2 The review dates for two strategies have slipped slightly: Workforce for the Future Strategy and the Corporate Asset Management Plan.

Workforce for the Future Strategy

Corporate Management Team agreed that the Workforce for the Future Strategy would best be rolled into an ongoing Employability Review which covers both the internal and external workforce in North Lanarkshire. The strategy will now be presented to Policy and Strategy Committee in December.

Corporate Asset Management Plan

Work on new developments across the council has delayed finalisation of the Corporate Asset Management Plan; this requires updating and amending to include work on Community Hubs and office rationalisation. Once this work is scoped and finalised the new completed plan will be presented Policy and Strategy Committee for approval.

- 2.1.3 The Workforce for the Future Strategy and the Corporate Asset Management Plan will both be captured in the updated Programme of Work for 2020 and beyond, due this Autumn.

2.2 Review Guidance

- 2.2.1 Review guidance was designed to help create standardisation and ensure strategies are developed in an approved, relevant and consultative manner. While there are no standard templates, some core information is deemed essential such as owner and review date.

- 2.2.2 Recent changes and improvements have necessitated some tweaks to the guidance. Changes include details on the *Plan for North Lanarkshire* and a strengthened requirement to make links to outcomes and ambition statements more explicit.
- 2.2.3 This need to highlight links to outcomes is reflected in an Audit Scotland briefing paper 'Planning for Outcomes'. This recommends new strategies, policies and plans should set out the outcomes they are aiming to achieve and intermediate outputs, measures and milestones.
- 2.2.4 Included in the guidance is how strategies should be published. Corporate Communications has designed a standard look for strategies where the council is the sole, or lead, partner and will continue to produce these documents in the required format. For sub policies, a template allow services to create their own documents without the need for Graphics input. This has a similar look to the parent strategy and includes standard information such as links to ambition statements, review dates and impact assessments.

2.3 Next steps

- 2.3.1 Work to create a central location on the website to hold all strategies (or direct people to them) is underway and will, with the co-operation of policy owners, be complete by November 2019. Once operational, it is imperative that services ensure this is kept up to date to ensure continued relevance of the Strategic Policy Framework.
- 2.3.2 There are 31 strategies in the framework, achieved by the deletion or integration of 'sub' policies into the 'parent' strategy. The Environment Strategy, for example, identified 10 sub policies and the Digital and IT Strategy includes 11. Work to develop sub policies is underway and several have been approved, or are ready for approval, including the Single Use Plastic Action Plan which will be presented to Environment and Transportation Committee in November 2019.
- 2.3.4 Business Solutions will work with services to ensure the sub policies are also on a timetable for review and adhere to corporate guidelines to ensure the success of the relevant parent strategy. Work is continuing with Education and Families to devise the timeline for the development of the Education and Families Improvement Plan and associated sub policies.

3. Equality and Diversity

- 3.1 **Fairer Scotland Duty**
Under the duty, all strategies, policies and plans will actively consider how we can reduce inequalities caused by socio-economic disadvantage. The framework itself is therefore not subject to Fairer Scotland Duty although individual strategies therein will require assessment.
- 3.2 **Equality Impact Assessment**
Services are required to undertake assessments when developing or reviewing individual strategies in the framework.

4. Implications

- 4.1 **Financial Impact**

Review guidance ensures all impacts in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.4 will be considered for any new or review work carried out on strategies within the framework.

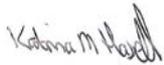
- 4.2 HR/Policy/Legislative Impact
These impacts will be considered for any work carried out on strategies in the framework.
- 4.3 Environmental Impact
Environmental impact assessments will be considered for any development or review work carried out on strategies in the framework.
- 4.4 Risk Impact
Risk will be identified for each strategy within the framework and managed in accordance with the relevant corporate or service risk register.

5. Measures of success

- 5.1 All strategies, policies and plans showing clear links to our ambition statements to ensure delivery of the priorities in the Plan for North Lanarkshire.

6. Supporting documents

- 6.1 Appendix 1 - Strategic Policy Framework - Review Timetable



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