

2019-2023 CORPORATE STATEMENT - PROGRESS UPDATE

Cabinet	16 June 2022
Report Author	Chief Executive
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Ash Ashbee - Leader of the Council
Status	For Information
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	No
Ward:	All Wards

Executive Summary:

This report provides Cabinet with a retrospective high-level summary of key progress to date made towards the 2019-2023 Corporate Statement and supporting Core Business Objectives.

Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet note the progress, made to date, in achieving the 2019-2023 Corporate Statement and supporting Core Business Objectives.

Corporate Implications

Financial and Value for Money

The detailed objectives within the Core Business Objectives will need to be deliverable in line with the Council's budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Legal

There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

Risk Management

This is a backwards look for information. Therefore, any Risk Management would be addressed in relation to the relevant service area or project activities.

Corporate

The Council is responsible for a wide range of statutory and discretionary services. Through the 2019-2023 Corporate Statement, the council has taken an outcome-focused approach to the delivery of the supporting Core Business Objectives.

Equality Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty

Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Protected characteristics: age, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

This report relates to the following aim of the equality duty:

To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.

An Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken when the Corporate Statement was written back in 2019. There is no reason to state at that time that the content of the Core Business Objectives will negatively impact any groups with protected characteristics. The Core Business Objectives focus on improving the quality of life in Thanet for all. Opportunities to further the aims of the Duty have been investigated during the Equality Impact Analysis of individual projects, plans and strategies arising from the Core Business Objectives.

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1. The Corporate Statement 2019-2023 was approved by Full Council on 10 October 2019. This report provides Cabinet with a retrospective high-level summary of key progress to date made towards the 2019-2023 Corporate Statement and supporting Core Business Objectives.
- 1.2. In the middle of March 2020, the Council delivered an emergency response to the COVID19 pandemic. The response had an enormous impact on the delivery of Council services. Some Council services were paused to assist in reducing the spread of the disease, whilst other services changed so that critical services could operate safely. In addition, new services were established to support our communities through the pandemic.

2.0 The Current Situation

- 2.1. The Council has refreshed its approach to how it both monitors and reports on corporate performance. The corporate performance indicators are intended to demonstrate progress against the council's Corporate Objectives; Environment,

Communities and Growth. The approach provides the public with clear and easy to access information on how key services are performing and supports residents' feedback that they would like the council to be efficient, transparent and responsive.

2.2. **Growth** - We will continue to ensure we work to consider new ways to generate income and invest our current resources. Delivering a Council that is financially strong to discharge its services and invest in the growth of the District. We have:

- a. Secured £22.2m for the Margate Town Deal.
- b. Secured £601,900 Government funding to make improvements to Ramsgate's town centre as part of the High Streets Heritage Action Zone.
- c. Secured £6.3m Government Levelling Up funding for Margate and £19.8m Government Levelling Up funding for Ramsgate.
- d. £2.7m Future High Street Fund for Ramsgate.
- e. Secured £12m of Government funding to support the Parkway Station.
- f. Published the High-Level feasibility study for the future of Ramsgate Port and Royal Harbour.
- g. Published a new 2020 Destination Management Framework that builds on the first Destination Management Plan (DMP) developed in 2012/13.
- h. Exceeded the benchmark yield on its Treasury deposits as reported to Council on 10 December 2020, as part of the 2020-21 Treasury Management and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-Year Review.

2.3. **Environment** - Having a clean and well-maintained environment remains important to us. We will be clear with our residents on what we will do and what our asks of residents are – cultivating a shared responsibility approach. Delivering a clean and accessible living environment, maintaining an emphasis on prevention but where necessary we will use an enforcement approach. We have:

- a. Extended the current PSPO to last until 2023 and adopted it in accordance with the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Crime and Policing Act 2014. The amendments provide better management of the coastal areas and support wildlife conservation and wildlife funded projects within the District of Thanet.
- b. Led a Multi-Agency operation targeting commercial properties involved in the sale of cheap and illicit tobacco. The Council was granted a Premises Closure Order for seven premises in Thanet. This is the first time so many closures have been granted for commercial premises in one hearing.
- c. Developed a Multi-Agency Beach Management Plan that included practical steps such as increased staffing, targeted enforcement, later collections and 300 additional bins.
- d. Reviewed and updated the Dog Public Spaces Protection Order.
- e. Introduced a new Coastal & Beach Public Spaces Protection Order.
- f. Marked the 20th anniversary of the Thanet Coast Project.
- g. Adopted the Thanet Local Plan.
- h. Purchased 11 new waste open-back collection vehicles to improve the efficiency of collections across the district. Launched a new real-time digital

information system that allows residents to report any issues quickly without needing to complete a form. As well as, check bin collection calendars and pay subscriptions to the council's garden waste services.

- i. Launched a project to create wildflower meadows across the district as well as a new and more effective approach to planting in council-maintained flower beds.

2.4. **Communities** - Through effective partnership working with both the public sector agencies and the community, we will provide leadership and direction across the district and the region to ensure everyone is working to the same goal. Delivering high-quality housing, safer communities and enhancing the health and wellbeing of our residents. We have:

- a. Approved the Policy for imposing financial and publication penalties under The Energy Efficiency (Private Rented Property) (England and Wales) Regulations 2015. And the Policy for imposing financial penalties under The Electrical Safety Standards in the Private Rented Sector (England) Regulations 2020.
- b. Took the decision to bring the management of the Council's housing stock back in-house.
- c. Secured £1.3million to fund rough sleeper support services. That included accommodation and funding of a multi-agency team to deliver all services such as outreach, drug and alcohol services, and mental health.
- d. Rebranded the Margate Task Force as the Thanet Multi-agency Task Force (MTF) - to reflect that the MTF has expanded its reach to cover the entirety of Thanet.
- e. Via an asset transfer from Thanet Council to Westgate Town Council transferred the ownership of the War Memorial Recreation Ground on Lymington Road and two shelters on Sea Road.
- f. Secured a share of the Safer Streets Fund awarded to Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner for projects to focus on the Central Harbour and Eastcliff wards in Ramsgate.
- g. Continued to deliver on the actions in the annual Thanet Community Safety Plan.
- h. Mobilised a Community Hub during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

3.0 Next Steps

- 3.1. Between now and May 2023, the Corporate Statement Working Party will start to look at a skeleton framework and the broad issues that may need to be considered for inclusion in the 2023-27 Corporate Plan.
- 3.2. All Cabinet Advisory Groups and Committees will be formally dissolved on the day of the 2023 Election. Following the outcome of the election, all new committees will be set up at the Annual Council meeting in May 2023. At that meeting, the Leader of the Council will be confirmed and from that point, new Cabinet Advisory Groups or other informal arrangements can be created.

- 3.3. However, immediately prior to the 2023 Local Council Elections, the Corporate Statement Working Party may wish to make suggestions to the new Administration on themes that they may wish to consider as 2023-27 Corporate Priorities.

Contact Officer: Carol Cook, Policy Officer
Reporting to: Madeline Homer, Chief Executive

Annex List

Annex 1: Mid-Term Report

Background Papers

[2019-2023 Corporate Statement](#) and Business Objectives 2019-2023.
[Agenda and Minutes](#) Council - Thursday 19 October 2019.

Corporate Consultation

Finance: Chris Blundell (Director of Finance)