

# Supplementary Papers

## Cabinet

held on Friday 10 July 2020 at 10.30 am

This was a virtual, online meeting.

### Open to the public including the press

5. **Public participation** (Page 2)

To receive any questions or statements from members of the public that have registered to speak.

7. **Corporate Plan 2020 to 2024** (Pages 3 - 11)

To consider the report of the acting deputy chief executive – transformation and operations.



## Vale Cabinet agenda item 10. July 10<sup>th</sup> 2020

### Some facts about Citizens Advice in Oxfordshire South and Vale

We are a local charity. We are members of national Citizens Advice but raise our core income locally. Our trustees, volunteers and staff all come from the local community.

We provide free advice to the people of Oxfordshire South and Vale. No other organisation helps so many people with so many types of problem.

We help local people. Last year we advised **11,209 people** (V =5,252; S= 5, 957). This is an increase of **30%** over 3 years and represents about **1:12** of all South & Vale households.

We make a difference. We helped **78%** of our clients to resolve their problems and **86%** to find a way forward. **90%** would recommend the service to others

We provide value for money. Our **150** volunteers **in 8** locations are supported by just 12 paid staff. We are lean and efficient. For every £1 spent, we save the public purse £7.00.

### Coronavirus

**Our staff and 75% of our volunteers** have been working from home. They operate our AdviceLine phone service, support clients with debt, benefit claims and appeals and provide IT and administrative support. As a result, we have been able to help **2,346** local people since April, many for the first time. The top 5 issues people bring to us have been (in order): benefits, employment, debt, housing and family/relationships.

Our Abingdon Advice Centre has partially reopened on Mondays and Tuesdays to enable trainee advisers to learn from experienced advisers. We are thinking now about how to re-open safely to the public for face to face appointments.

A **60% increase in debt cases** has been predicted. We are preparing for it.

### Our financial situation

Between 2017/18 and 2019/20, we reduced the proportion of our income from district council grant from **75%** to **52%** by winning debt, energy and benefits contracts and securing grants from Town and Parish Councils. We also set up a major donors' project but fundraising events this year have had to be cancelled.

**We are grateful to the council for its support. Continued grant aid is vital to us.**

# **Draft Vale Corporate Plan 2020-24**

**Developing Thinking on Vision, Themes, Programmes and Example Projects**

**Vale of White Horse District Council**

**Scrutiny Committee**

**6 July 2020**

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For Committee to review the Cabinet's developing thinking on the Corporate Plan 2020-24 themes, programme and example projects and provide any recommendations to Cabinet on its contents in advance of any public engagement and Cabinet on 10 July 2020.

Agenda Item 7

# Vale of White Horse District Council Vision

*Vale of White Horse District Council aims to help **build and support thriving local communities**, where everyone can **enjoy the opportunity to live a happy and fulfilling life**. We will do all we can to contribute to making that a reality in the Vale, and we will ensure that our council and our district play their part in **tackling the Climate Emergency**.*



## THEME ONE

# Providing the homes people need

We will find ways to provide **more genuinely affordable housing**, including **housing for social rent**, to **better provide for the needs of Vale residents**. We will aim to provide a **mix of tenures** in each development to **build balanced communities**. We will use our influence on decision makers, where the responsibility lies outside of Vale.

### Programmes

1.1 Explore and consider opportunities to bring forward the delivery of homes people can afford.

1.2 Adopt a policy framework that ensures those homes could be delivered in a way that supports the environment and people living healthy lives.

### Example Projects

Develop an affordable homes Supplementary Planning Document

Strengthen work with developers to ensure they meet their obligations to deliver affordable homes

## THEME TWO

# Tackling the Climate Emergency

We will do everything we can to help tackle the Climate Emergency. We will:

- reduce council emissions by 75% by 2025
- become a **carbon neutral council** by **2030**
- reduce all emissions across the Vale District by 75% by 2030
- aspire to be a **carbon neutral Vale district** by **2045**

### Programmes

2.1 A climate emergency programme, focussed on what the council has control over, working towards our targets.

2.2 A programme around exercising our influence with partners on wider policy, lobbying Government and identifying environmental policy gaps.

### Example Projects

Explore green investment offering within the Treasury Management strategy

Develop new policies to tackle Climate Change in the new Local Plan

## THEME THREE

# Building Healthy Communities

We will contribute to **making people's lives healthier** by encouraging the **switch to more active travel, improving air quality** where people work and live, and providing **active opportunities**.

### Programmes

3.1 Building strong communities and connections, with a sense of place and strong community identity.

3.2 Promoting healthy place shaping and active communities, for everyone

3.3 Safeguarding and supporting our vulnerable residents.

### Example Projects

Develop an Active Communities Strategy

Provide and promote opportunities for residents to increase their level of activity

## THEME FOUR

# Building Stable Finances

We will **manage the council's resources responsibly** and make **effective use of the council's assets**. We will do our best to **build financial resilience** to protect the council against future uncertainties. We will work across the public sector to influence and maximise funding for local government, in order to continue to invest and provide the services residents and businesses need.

### Programmes

4.1 We will explore and actively consider all avenues to deliver financial stability, including maximising income available to the council.

4.2 We will make effective use of the council's assets acting in a financially sensible manner.

### Example Projects

Undertake a strategic property review to inform which assets to hold on to, make better use of or dispose of

Adoption of the CIPFA financial management code of practice



## THEME FIVE

### Working in Partnership

To help us achieve our aims and objectives effectively, efficiently and fairly, we will work in partnership with other councils, authorities and businesses, non-profit organisations, community and residents' groups. We will **provide support** to residents and organisations to effect and drive change **in the community** and we will provide all the support we can to **businesses in the Vale** to help them succeed.

#### Programmes

5.1 We will work in partnership to influence and shape regional and national agendas to maximise opportunities for our communities and businesses.

5.2 We will work with and support our residents, businesses and communities to effect and enable change

#### Example Projects

We recognise the importance of partnership working and its strength and value in delivering our priorities and will undertake a partnership mapping and review project to ensure that the partnerships we are in deliver improved outcomes to residents

Undertake an economic development review to ensure that the council is providing support to SMEs, homebased businesses, supporting skills development

## THEME SIX

# Working in an Open and Inclusive Way

We will **work openly and transparently**. We will **listen to feedback** from local residents, communities, businesses, partners and our own officers. Our work will particularly aim to include those groups that have historically been marginalised or those that have been hard to reach. We will **ensure we are accountable** and that **our decisions are open to appropriate scrutiny**, and we will **admit when we get things wrong**.

### Programmes

6.1 We will improve our use of technology to increase understanding and access to what we do, how we work and the decisions we make.

6.2 We will increase meaningful engagement and communication with everyone.

6.3 We will strengthen our governance framework and address our policy gaps, improving transparency.

### Example Projects

Create a Youth Council, tying in with climate emergency activity to increase engagement with young people and local democratic decision making

Undertake a policy review to identify policy gaps and look to consolidate policies with linked outcomes and create a publically accessible policy library

