

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

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.

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

