

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: Monday 5 October 2020

Report Title: Planning for recovery: HBC priority themes and actions

Report By: Jane Hartnell, Managing Director

Key Decision: N

Classification: Open

Purpose of Report

To attach the 'Planning for Recovery: HBC Priority themes and actions' (appendix A) document, setting out associated context and proposed next steps.

Recommendation(s)

- 1. That Cabinet approve appendix A as an initial direction of travel for the council's recovery and resilience intentions.**
- 2. That Cabinet agree the associated next steps proposed.**

Reasons for Recommendations

1. The onset of Covid 19 has prompted the need to reconcile existing commitments agreed in the corporate plan 2020-24 with new or changed commitments brought about as a result of this virus and the need to track how we are doing against new or changed commitments.
2. That the council also clarify its recovery and resilience intentions as far as possible, as a basis to continue and extend dialogue with partners to prepare for subsequent opportunities and challenges that lay ahead, given the onset of Covid 19.

Introduction

1. The council agreed its corporate plan and budget back in February 2020. Shortly after, Covid 19 spread with unprecedented impacts across the globe.
2. As a result, alongside other local authorities and their partners, HBC took on (and continues to take on) several new activities, roles and responsibilities, previously detailed to cabinet here:

<https://hastings.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s39295/Cabinet%20080620%20COVID-19%20Final.pdf>
3. The onset of Covid 19 has exacerbated an already challenging council [budget position](#) and has created a great deal of uncertainty, making the process of resilience and recovery planning challenging.
4. This report sets out the council's ongoing management of the pandemic and its operational transformation as a result of it. The report also reconciles existing HBC commitments in its corporate plan 2020-2024 with new or changed Covid 19 commitments to reflect our changed circumstances and conditions.
5. The report concludes by proposing next steps in terms of building resilience and recovery for the town, drawing on the momentum of collaboration, partnership working and community spirit shown to date.

Planning for recovery: HBC priority themes and actions

6. Appendix A sets out HBC's resilience and recovery intentions to date.
7. This document identifies 8 key themes that form the basis for ongoing management of the council's resilience and recovery activity.
8. It is intended that these themes and actions set the initial direction of travel for recovery and resilience from an HBC perspective in the first instance.
9. These need to be flexible and adaptable, able to evolve and change, given the following uncertainties:
 - the extent of resurgence of the virus in the coming weeks and months
 - Government preference for future models of local service delivery (Devolution white paper)
 - Coinciding impacts, priorities, plans and capacity in house and of our partners in the public, business, voluntary and community sectors
 - The council's budget position and direction of travel given the onset of Covid 19 - to be outlined in the forthcoming medium-term financial strategy
10. Although these uncertainties remain, the council is very clear of the need to extend and build on the intensive work with our partners in the public, business, voluntary and community

sectors, who over the past few months have come together at speed to steer the town through the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Next Steps

11. Cabinet is asked to approve the themes and activities set out in appendix A, that outline HBC recovery and resilience intentions in the first instance.
12. Approval can coincide with reconciling corporate plan commitments with changed or new Covid 19 commitments, integrating these into refreshed council performance management arrangements.
13. Like the corporate plan, it is intended that further iterations of appendix A will follow the form and design of our corporate plan and will be presented and communicated via the council's website, in line with Cabinet approval.
14. The council's Overview and Scrutiny committee will be monitoring progress in this regard, having made the commitment at their annual meeting in late July to refocus their efforts and intentions, contributing to and tracking [recovery](#).
15. Appendix A can then be used to continue dialogue with partners towards firming up a town wide recovery and resilience statement of intent via the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).
16. Should the LSP be agreeable, then HBC would continue to work with and through the LSP towards a town wide recovery narrative, having set out HBC's initial intentions in appendix A.

Timetable of Next Steps

17. Please include a list of key actions and the scheduled dates for these:

Action	Key milestone	Due date (provisional)	Responsible
Subject to Cabinet approval, extend dialogue with LSP partners, sharing appendix A as a working draft to inform dialogue.	Clarity from LSP partners on whether there is appetite/capacity for a broader town wide recovery and resilience narrative.	Next appropriate EDG/LSP.	Continuous Improvement and Democratic Services Manager, Assistant Director Regeneration and Culture
Ready Appendix A to follow suit with the corporate plan design and prepare website content accordingly.	Appendix A available on our website aligned with our corporate plan. Appropriate communications prepared.	October -post Cabinet approval	Communications Manager/Graphic Designer
Working through the LSP to firm up a statement of	LSP partners agree direction of travel for	Post Cabinet Approval and next appropriate LSP	Economic Development Manager/Sustainability

intent towards a town wide resilience and recovery narrative.	collaborative recovery and resilience efforts	meeting.	Policy Officer
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Wards Affected

(All Wards);

Policy Implications

Reading Ease Score:

Have you used relevant project tools?: Y/N

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	Y/N
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	Y/N
Risk Management	Y/N
Environmental Issues & Climate Change	Y/N
Economic/Financial Implications	Y/N
Human Rights Act	Y/N
Organisational Consequences	Y/N
Local People's Views	Y/N
Anti-Poverty	Y/N
Legal	Y/N

Additional Information

Appendix A - Planning for recovery: HBC Priority themes and actions
Autumn 2020

Officer to Contact

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