

Report of the Head of Democratic Services**Report to Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities)****Date: 9 January 2020****Subject: Best Council Plan Refresh 2020/21 to 2024/25**

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	☐ Yes ☒ No
Has consultation been carried out?	☒ Yes ☐ No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	☒ Yes ☐ No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	☐ Yes ☒ No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	☐ Yes ☒ No

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) with an opportunity to consider the proposals to refresh the Best Council Plan for the period 2020/21 to 2024/25, and comment on those aspects that fall within its terms of reference.
- 1.2 The proposals to refresh the Best Council Plan for the period 2020/21 to 2024/25 are set out in the attached Executive Board, considered on 7 January 2020. Other Scrutiny Boards will be considering elements of the proposals relevant to their terms of reference.

2. Background information

- 2.1 In February 2019, Council adopted the Best Council Plan 2019/20 to 2020/21 (available [here](#)). The Best Council Plan is Leeds City Council's strategic plan, bringing together the headline aspirations from a range of supporting council and partnership plans to set out the authority's overall ambitions, policy direction and priorities for both city and organisation, underpinned by the authority's values. It informs the council's budget-setting and financial strategies, helps staff understand how the work they do makes a real difference to the people of Leeds and shows partners how the Council contributes to city-wide issues.
- 2.2 The Best Council Plan is a rolling multi-year document that is reviewed and refined annually as needed. The attached Executive Board report sets out proposals to

update the Best Council Plan for the five-year period 2020/21 to 2024/25, this revised timescale bringing it into line with the latest Medium-Term Financial Strategy approved by Executive Board in July 2019 and the emerging enabling framework to support the delivery of the Best City/Best Council goals.

- 2.3 As in previous years, it is intended to produce a summary of the discussion and comments from all Scrutiny Boards in order to make a single submission to Executive Board.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 The proposals to refresh the Best Council Plan for the period 2020/21 to 2024/25 are set out in the attached Executive Board, considered on 7 January 2020.
- 3.2 The proposals are submitted to Scrutiny for consideration, review and comment; and the Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) is asked to consider specific matters that fall within its remit. Other Scrutiny Boards will be considering elements of the budget proposals relevant to their terms of reference.
- 3.3 Any comments or recommendations made by the Scrutiny Board will be submitted to the Executive Board for consideration at its meeting in February 2019; prior to submission of an updated Best Council Plan to full Council on 26th February 2019.
- 3.4 As in previous years, it is intended to produce a summary of the discussion and comments from all Scrutiny Boards in order to make a single submission to Executive Board.
- 3.5 Relevant Executive Members senior officers have been invited to attend the meeting to discuss the attached report and address any issues raised by the Scrutiny Board.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 The Best Council Plan 2019/20 to 2020/21 was developed through engagement with a range of stakeholders, notably with the Executive Board, all Scrutiny Boards, the Corporate Leadership Team and other senior officers. It also draws on priorities set out in existing council and partnership plans and strategies which have themselves been subject to extensive consultation and engagement.
- 4.1.2 As set out in the attached Executive Board report, the proposed update to the Best Council Plan will also be developed in consultation with members and staff and will draw on insights from the council's 2019 staff survey and public consultation on the Budget.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 As set out in the attached Executive Board report, a strategic equality impact assessment (EIA) is currently being carried out and will be presented to Executive Board in February with the final Best Council Plan and Budget proposals – as in previous years, this will be joint EIA covering both the corporate plan and Budget. Additional EIAs have been carried out on key supporting plans and strategies.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 The attached Executive Board report presents initial proposals for refreshing the Best Council Plan for 2020/21 to 2024/25, continuing to provide a framework for the council's approach to responding to the inequality challenges in Leeds through growing the economy while being a compassionate city.
- 4.3.2 Detailed delivery plans and key performance indicators are in place for the range of supporting plans and strategies that sit beneath the Best Council Plan. Accountability for monitoring and managing these falls within the Council's existing governance arrangements.
- 4.3.3 Additional details relating to Council policies are presented in the attached Executive Board report.

Climate Emergency

- 4.3.4 In conjunction with inclusive growth and health and wellbeing, it is proposed that the climate change emergency becomes the third 'pillar' underpinning the council's Best City ambition to tackle poverty and reduce inequalities

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

- 4.4.1 The refreshed Best Council Plan will set out the council's priorities aligned with the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and annual Budget. Developing and then implementing the Best Council Plan will continue to inform, and be informed by, the council's funding envelope and other resources.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

- 4.5.1 There are no significant legal issues identified within the attached Executive Board report; which has been produced in accordance with the council's Budget and Policy Framework.

4.6 Risk management

- 4.6.1 The council's corporate and directorate risk registers will continue to be reviewed in light of any amendments to the Best Council Plan to ensure that the key risks are appropriately identified, assessed and managed.
- 4.6.2 A full risk assessment will also be undertaken of the council's financial plans – which support the delivery of the Best Council Plan. As set out in the attached Executive Board report, these arrangements comply with the Council's Risk Management Policy.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The attached Executive Board report sets out proposals to refresh the Best Council Plan for the period 2020/21 to 2024/25.
- 5.2 The Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) is asked to consider and comment on those aspects that fall within its terms of reference; with other Scrutiny Boards considering elements of the proposals relevant to their specific terms of reference.

- 5.3 As in previous years, it is intended to produce a summary of the discussion and comments from all Scrutiny Boards in order to make a single submission to Executive Board at its meeting in February 2020.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 That the Scrutiny Board considers the relevant information within the attached Executive Board report and identifies any specific comments and/or recommendations for consideration by Executive Board as final proposals are prepared for consideration by full Council in February 2020

7. Background documents¹

- 7.1 None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.