

Report of: Leader of the Council

Meeting of:	Date:	Ward(s):
Full Council	23 September 2021	All

Delete as appropriate:	Exempt	Non-exempt
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SUBJECT: ISLINGTON TOGETHER FOR A MORE EQUAL FUTURE**1. Synopsis**

- 1.1 This report gives an overview of the new strategic plan for the Council: "Islington Together for a More Equal Future". It provides a summary of the plan and the strategy to develop it further over the coming year in collaboration with communities.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To approve the new strategic plan.
- 2.2 To note the approach to build on this plan over the coming year by working with thought leaders and engaging with communities to capture lived experiences to enhance the delivery of our strategic programmes.

3. Background

- 3.1 A lot has changed since the Council's Corporate Plan was published in 2018. A decade on from the pioneering Fairness Commission in 2011, good progress has been made but there is so much more to do in realising our vision of a more equal future for Islington, not least because of the massive challenges we have faced such as a decade of austerity, Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic. As we navigate out of the pandemic and with a new Leader of the Council at the helm, this is an opportune moment for us to refresh our priorities, tell our story and clearly reaffirm our mission to create a more equal Islington.

- 3.2 This strategic plan has been developed with colleagues from across the Council to shape the direction of travel for the next decade, but with the understanding that we will spend the next year working with communities and thought leaders to delve deep into evidence and lived experiences of some of the most complex issues our residents face such as poverty, health inequalities and racism. The insight from this engagement work will be used to co-design a refined strategic plan in Autumn 2022.
- 3.3 The structure of the strategic plan incorporates priorities, principles and key strategic programmes to illustrate our ambitions and ways of working as an organisation. Alongside these, we will continue to drive the adoption of the CARE values with all of our staff to support the delivery of this work. To achieve our goals, we will need everyone – residents, partners, staff and members – to play their part.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial implications:

There are no specific financial implications as a result of this report; however, in light of current financial constraints it is imperative that officers ensure that key strategic programmes set out are delivered within agreed budgets. These budgets will be monitored through the existing monitoring process to identify and address potential issues and also any benefits as a result of improved performance.

4.2 Legal Implications:

While it is correct to say there is no specific statutory duty to produce a strategic plan, it is a necessary element of good governance. The performance regime established by the Local Government Act 1999 as amended by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 together with supporting legislation, requires the Council to work to achieve continuous improvement and best value. A strategic plan, its objectives and in time how the delivery measures up in terms of outcomes, are therefore one of the signifiers of a well-run local authority.

4.3 Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030:

Several of the key components of the strategic framework have environmental implications, including building new council homes, refurbishing estates and retrofitting our properties. However, several actions are aimed at reducing the environmental impact of the council, residents and local organisations and delivering the net zero ambition, including reducing emissions from vehicles and buildings, encouraging a green economy and improving recycling. The environmental implications of individual projects to deliver the components will be considered during their development.

4.4 Resident Impact Assessment:

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have

due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

The new strategic plan sets out the council's approach to removing and minimising disadvantages by putting Challenging Inequality at the heart of all work. There are no specific equality impact issues to consider as a result of this report. Individual Equality Impact Assessments have been/will be considered and developed for the strategic programmes set out in the plan.

5. Reason for recommendations

- 5.1 The new strategic plan provides a coherent collective vision for the upcoming decade for the borough, which will enable the Council to effectively respond to the pressing social, economic and environmental challenges we face.

Appendices

- Strategic Plan: Islington Together for a More Equal Future

Background papers:

- None

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



14 September 2021

Cllr Kaya Comer Schwartz

Date

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