

**CITY PLAN AND INDICATIVE TIMELINE ASSURANCE PROCESS**

**Report of the Director of Strategy and Corporate Affairs**

**1.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To seek Scrutiny Coordinating Committee's consideration of the details of the City Plan and Indicative Timeline Assurance Process and the proposed updating of the Plan and Timeline.
- 1.2 Committee's views will contribute to the assurance process and the finalisation of the updated Plan and Indicative Timeline.

**2.0 Context**

- 2.1 The City Plan is the council's sole strategic plan. It is an Article 4 Plan subject to approval by Full Council.
- 2.2 The City Plan currently covers the period 2019-2030 and describes the Challenges, Themes and Commitments for the regeneration, growth and recovery of the city post the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2.3 Following the City Plan's and Indicative Timeline's initial publication in 2019 it was intended that annual reviews would be undertaken of both.
- 2.4 The first review was undertaken in 2020 as the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic started to become apparent and resulted in revisions including:
  - the inclusion of a Covid-19 specific Challenge
  - refinements to the wording of other Challenges
  - references to Smart City to recognise the globally significant developments taking place in Sunderland
  - refinements to the wording of the Commitments
  - the updating of the Indicative Timeline of activities through to 2030
- 2.5 The second review was undertaken last year and resulted in revisions that are included in the current version of the City Plan, including:
  - the inclusion of a global climate change, related Challenge "*Sunderland will play its role in tackling the global challenge of climate change, working together across the city to be carbon neutral by 2040*" (and associated additions to relevant Commitments)
  - the updating of the Indicative Timeline to reflect the breadth and current status of key projects in the city that would contribute to the delivery of the Plan.

### 3.0 Current Position

- 3.1 Given the continuing emerging impacts of the cost-of-living crisis and other related socio-economic and structural changes impacting on the city, evidence has been collated to determine whether changes need to be made to the City Plan and Indicative Timeline this year, including:
- the council's quarterly performance reporting process
  - responses to quarterly performance reporting to Scrutiny
  - specialist analysis and considerations from council services and city partners
  - analysis of wider socio-economic, demographic and deprivation data and intelligence
- 3.2 In addition the council's Extended Joint Leadership Team also met to consider the contents of the Plan.
- 3.3 The analysis and considerations indicated that the following revisions should be considered to the City Plan:
- **Timescale:** As the City Plan is a rolling 10-year plan it is proposed to revise the timescale to 2023-2035, allowing for a recognisable, revised end date
  - **Challenges:** Previous revisions to the current Challenges have included the use of a more positive and aspirational style of language. It is therefore proposed that the Challenges are now described as Ambitions
  - **Cost-of-Living:** That the Covid-19 Challenge/Ambition is revised to reflect the ongoing challenges the city and residents face with an emphasis on the cost-of-living crisis
  - **Vision:** That the reference to 2030 is removed from the Vision in line with the change to the overall timescale.
  - **Themes:** That the references to 2030 in each Theme are removed in line with the change to the overall timescale
  - **Commitments:** That specific references are made to children and adult social care in the Healthy Smart City Commitments and that a specific reference to the Cost-of-Living crisis is made in the Vibrant Smart City Commitments
  - **Indicative Timeline:** That updates and revisions are made to reflect the breadth and current status of key projects in the city that will contribute to delivery of the Plan.
  - **Achievements Timeline:** That previously archived activity from 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22 and activity for the current year 2022-23 is updated to accurately completed projects and published as part of the City Plan to promote the understanding of achievements towards the Vision
  - **Narratives:** That the existing, unpublished, Narratives that are used to define the Commitments are updated and refreshed for publication to promote the fuller understanding of each Commitment
- 3.4 A workshop was held with Scrutiny Coordinating Committee on 19 December. Comments made at the workshop included:

- Including a description of the challenges which the council faces as context to or within individual Ambitions
- Considering the order in which Commitments are presented under each Theme
- The use of more descriptive language for each Commitment
- Endorsement of the proposal to publish the Narratives to promote understanding of the detail and emphasis of each Commitment

3.5 Committee's considerations have been used to refine the proposed final content of the City Plan and the final draft proposed Plan and Indicative Timeline will be tabled at the meeting,

#### **4.0 Next Steps**

4.1 Subject to the Committee's considerations it is proposed that a report is presented to the 2 February 2023 Cabinet meeting with a view to the proposed updated City Plan 2019-2030 and Indicative Timeline being adopted by Full Council at its meeting on 22 February 2023.

#### **5.0 Recommendation**

5.1 Scrutiny Coordinating Committee is recommended to consider the details of the City Plan and Indicative Timeline assurance process and the proposed updating of the Plan and Timeline.