

**Committee:** Scrutiny  
**Title:** Corporate Plan update

**Date:** 24 March  
2026

**Portfolio Holder** Cllr Petrina Lees  
Leader

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## Summary

1. This report presents an update on progress against the priorities of the Corporate Plan 2023-27. This is the version of the plan for the 2025/26 year and this is the final update of the year.

## Recommendations

2. None

## Financial Implications

3. There are none directly arising from the Corporate Plan but the council's budget reflects allocations for the members' priorities.

## Background Papers

4. None

## Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	Corporate priorities are shaped in part by consultation activity
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None
Sustainability	None

Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	The Corporate Plan sets out the priority areas of work for the council's staff

## Situation

6. The Corporate Plan sets out the vision for a five year period and the priority areas of work to deliver that vision. As is customary, the Corporate Plan underwent a comprehensive rewrite following the last election to ensure it reflected the priorities of the new administration. Each following year of the plan it undergoes a refresh to include one-year measurable objectives that contribute towards the overall aspirations of the plan.
7. The Corporate Plan 2023-28 adopts a template that is not dissimilar to that used by many other local authorities. It provides continuation from the previous Plan by identifying four key priority areas, although these do not necessarily have the same names as in the previous Plan. The Plan is consciously more streamlined than the previous Plan, focusing tightly on key priorities and setting out measurable delivery targets.
8. The four priority areas are:
  - Protecting & Enhancing Our Environment
  - Encouraging Economic Growth
  - Building Strong Communities
  - Putting Residents First
9. The priorities reflected in the Corporate Plan demonstrate a considerable degree of continuity with the previous Corporate Plan, though the current plan reflects up to date circumstances, national context, and progress made by the authority over the life of the previous plan.
10. This report provides members with an update on progress in each priority area. These updates are also rated (red, amber, green) to demonstrate if the council is on target to deliver the actions contained in each priority. No priorities are rated red. There are three amber priorities.
11. Among the achievements in the bulk of priorities rated green are:
  - the successful introduction of kerbside small electricals recycling,
  - the awarding of 17 grants to community climate projects under the Zero Carbon Communities Grant Scheme
  - switching to HVO fuel for our refuse lorries
  - Confirmation from the Planning Inspectorate that the draft Local Plan was sound

- An overall assessment of “Good” in a mock regulatory inspection of our landlord services
12. Of the amber-rated priorities, two of these are so because of the direct impact of Local Government Reorganisation and the necessity to prioritise. These are around progressing work in emerging technologies, necessarily on hold pending the announcement on LGR partners, and on the rural priorities project, work on which is progressing albeit not in the format originally envisaged due to the pressures of LGR preparations.
13. The third area is around Housing services which has moved from green to amber for this update in recognition of the time-consuming issues relating to the outgoing housing repairs contractor and the decision to bring the service back in-house. The management attention required has meant delays in other areas of work which are detailed in the update. There are revised deadlines and it is expected that this priority area will return to green status at the time of the next update.
14. Progress against the priorities in this plan is periodically reported to Scrutiny Committee. These updates, of which this is the third, are timetabled in the Scrutiny Work Programme. Many of the priorities are being met through the successful completion of actions in other plans and strategies which are subject to their own governance and reporting arrangements at officer and member level, including:
- The Local Plan
  - The Economic Development Plan
  - The Climate Crisis Strategy and Action Plan

## Risk Analysis

15.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
The council fails to deliver on its corporate priorities	1	3	The Corporate Plan clearly sets out deliverable priorities and almost all actions are progressing according to timetable.

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.