

**CABINET MEETING: 23 JANUARY 2020**

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**CAPITAL AMBITION**

**LEADER (COUNCILLOR HUW THOMAS)**

**AGENDA ITEM: 3**

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**Reason for this Report**

1. This report sets out a refresh of the Administration's key priorities for Cardiff for the remainder of the municipal term and outlines the related delivery arrangements.

**Background**

2. Following the local government elections on 4 May 2017, a new Council Administration was formed. To outline its ambitions for the city, the Administration set out a new policy programme, entitled 'Capital Ambition', which included its four key priorities and associated delivery commitments for the municipal term from 2017 to 2022.
3. 'Capital Ambition' was approved by the Cabinet on 6 July 2017. It set out a programme of action which focused on the following four priorities:
  - **Working for Cardiff** – Making sure that all citizens can contribute to, and benefit from, the city's success.
  - **Working for Wales** – A successful Wales needs a successful capital city.
  - **Working for the Future** – Managing the city's growth in a sustainable way.
  - **Working for Public Services** – Making sure public services are delivered efficiently, effectively and sustainably in the face of rising demand and reducing budgets.
4. Since its approval by Cabinet in July 2017, a number of major policy commitments set out within Capital Ambition have either been achieved or significantly progressed. During this period, the Council has also continued its journey of performance improvements, with strong performance against a number of key statutory indicators. For example, Cardiff was the third most improved council in Wales in 2018/19, with performance against 58% of statutory indicators in the top two quartiles (up from 47% in 2017-18).

5. There have also been significant developments in the external environment in which the Council and its partners operate to which the Council must respond, including managing the impact of the UK leaving the European Union on 31 January 2020, responding to the declaration of a Climate Emergency and addressing the potential implications of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill.
6. The Administration has therefore chosen, at the mid-point of the municipal term, to review and refresh its policy agenda. Capital Ambition provides an updated statement of the Administration's refreshed priorities and commitments for the remainder of the municipal term from January 2020 to May 2022. A copy of this document is attached as **Appendix A** to this report.

### **Capital Ambition Delivery**

7. The Corporate Plan 2020-23 will translate the commitments set out in Capital Ambition into deliverable organisational objectives and will include detailed delivery milestones, key performance measures and targets. The Corporate Plan will continue to be supported by Directorate Delivery Plans, which will set out in greater detail how the Administration's priorities will be delivered, as well as how directorate business will be taken forward.
8. The Corporate Plan 2020-23 will be developed alongside the 2020/21 Budget, ensuring that the refreshed policy commitments set out in Capital Ambition are contained in the Council's budgetary framework. Both the Corporate Plan 2020-23 and the Cabinet's budget proposals for 2020/21 will be considered by all Scrutiny Committees, Cabinet and Council in February 2020.
9. Alongside the refresh of the Council's policy framework, the delivery of Capital Ambition will be supported by a strengthening of the Council's performance management framework. A new delivery framework that sets out the Council's arrangements for delivering Capital Ambition, while responding to the requirements of the Local Government and Elections Bill and the Well-being of Future Generations Act, is expected to be considered by Cabinet in March 2020.
10. Delivering Capital Ambition will also require co-ordinated action by the Council and its partners. The Cardiff Public Services Board (PSB), chaired by the Leader of the Council, brings together the city's public and third sector leaders, and builds on the long-established platform of partnership working in the city. The Cardiff PSB published its first statutory Well-being Plan 2018-23 in March 2018, which set out the priorities for public service collaboration in the city.
11. The Cardiff PSB will be required to publish a new Well-being Plan by April 2023 and is also required in statute to review its performance against its Well-being Objectives and to publish an annual performance report outlining its findings. It is therefore recommended that, as part of this annual review, the PSB considers the new priorities as outlined in Capital Ambition and makes any changes to its Well-being Plan to

ensure that the work programme of the Cardiff PSB reflects the Administration's refreshed priorities.

### **Reason for Recommendations**

12. To enable the Cabinet to approve an updated statement of the Administration's Capital Ambition priorities and commitments.

### **Legal Implications**

13. As noted in the body of the report, the Administration has reviewed and refreshed the Capital Ambition to provide an updated statement of the Administration's priorities and commitments for the remainder of the municipal term. It also provides an opportunity for the Administration to reaffirm its values.
14. The Cabinet is responsible for recommending the Council's key policies, referred to as the Policy Framework (comprising of the Wellbeing Plan, the Corporate Plan and the Improvement Plan, as well as a number of other statutory plans and strategies), for approval by full Council.
15. Legal advice will be provided in respect of specific policy proposals as they arise.

### **Equality and other public duties**

16. In considering this matter the decision maker must have regard to the Council's duties under the Equality Act 2010. Pursuant to these legal duties Councils must, in making decisions, have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations on the basis of protected characteristics. Protected characteristics are: (a) Age, (b) Gender reassignment, (c) Sex, (d) Race – including ethnic or national origin, colour or nationality, (e) Disability, (f) Pregnancy and maternity, (g) Marriage and civil partnership, (h) Sexual orientation, (i) Religion or belief – including lack of belief.
17. The decision maker should also have regard when making its decision to the Council's wider obligations under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards.

### **Financial Implications**

18. This report sets out the Administration's Capital Ambition for the period from January 2020 to May 2022. Consideration of each priority in respect to its financial affordability has been taken in respect to the current budget allocation for 2019/20 for both revenue and capital budgets and the indicative Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Programme for 2019/20 to 2023/24.

19. Where strategic priorities and commitments require additional financial resources then they will be identified in accordance with the amounts set out in the Budget Report in February 2020, which includes both revenue and capital budgets for 2019/20, the indicative Medium Term Financial Plan for the period up to 2024/25 and the indicative Capital Programme for the period up until 2024/25.
20. Some of these priorities and commitments contained in this report will be subject to further detailed reports which will be accompanied by a robust business case. This will include consideration of funding opportunities from external sources such as Welsh Government, the level of borrowing required and resulting affordability and an overall assessment of the financial resilience of the Council.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1) approve the new Capital Ambition document as an updated statement of the Administration's priorities and commitments for the period from January 2020 to May 2022;
- 2) authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with all Cabinet Members, to translate the Capital Ambition policy commitments into the Council's corporate planning and delivery framework and note that the Corporate Plan 2020-23 and Cabinet's budget proposals will be brought back for Cabinet consideration in February 2020.

<b>SENIOR RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</b>	<b>PAUL ORDERS</b> <b>Chief Executive</b>
	17 January 2020

*The following appendix is attached:*

Appendix A: Capital Ambition