

Performance Monitoring Report: S&R Committee

DATE OF MEETING	18 September 2020
ATTENDEES	Members: Keith Pearson, Nigel Cooper Officers: Andrew Cummings

PERFORMANCE UPDATE *(please give a brief progress update on the following areas)*

CDP PRIORITIES <i>(see Excelsis)</i>	<p>CDP 1 – Continue to allocate funds from the business rates pilot fund in line with the agreed principles</p> <p>SDC have been involved with two other authorities in the region on sourcing due diligence work related to the Community bank. This work will help inform recovery plans. The funding from the business rates pilot is available to the recovery board, in line with the original principles on its use agreed by the Strategy and Resources Committee.</p>
	<p>CDP 1.3 – Progress and deliver the redevelopment of Brimscombe Port by securing planning permission and being ready to seek a development partner</p> <p>A meeting has been held with GCC Highways and some minor amendments to the road layout are to be made by Atkins and further details provided. A response is still awaited from the EA, expected this week A meeting has been requested with Natural England to address their comments Homes England Amendments to the Project definition and key milestones in the Loan agreement have been agreed with Homes England</p>
	<p>CDP 1.4 – Submit a bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund by April 2020 to restore the canal link between Stonehouse and Saul.</p> <p>Complete - The Bid was submitted on 1st June and the CDP objective is thus complete. It was delayed from April with Lottery's agreement due to COVID.</p> <p>The bid is the subject of an October report to Strategy and Resources Committee.</p>

CDP 1.6 – Create a strategic approach to building more effective partnerships with parish and town councils.

The immediate response to the Covid pandemic put on hold the consultation exercises which were planned with Parish and Town Councils. However, throughout the pandemic SDC has worked with a number of Parish and Town Councils on a variety of projects, including High Street Recovery. The Council's new Policy and Governance Team will now be considering how to take these relationships forward and build on them in a constructive manner.

CDP 1.7 – Adopt a clear vision and digital strategy which is fit for purpose to deliver good quality, convenient and efficient services for staff, residents and local businesses.

The Infrastructure Renewal Project has made significant progress over the summer with a number of key projects delivered

- All services have been migrated to the new primary servers at Ebley Mill.
- The full Disaster Recovery backup server and storage have been installed and tested at the Property Care service's depot on the Littlecombe Business Park
- Purchase orders have been raised for a new digital telephony system

A project plan for the development of members' IT has been agreed by SLT. The first stage of this will involve workshops with a group of member volunteers to shape the future ICT provision. The deadline for this project is the May 2021 elections.

CDP 5.2 - Explore the opportunities for income generation to help achieve financial self-sufficiency

Work proceeded at the expected pace during 2019/20 with the completion of the fees and charges policy and the introduction of a number of additional income streams into the budget. Work has been effectively paused during the Covid-19 pandemic. The focus for financial sustainability is to create a budget strategy which protects the financial position of the Council at this difficult time. The overall aim of financial self-sufficiency has been included as one of the key strategic principles of the modernisation programme.

	<p>CDP 5.3 – Work collaboratively through partnerships and external stakeholders to achieve greater influence to deliver the Council’s objectives.</p> <p>Significant progress has been made in the One Legal Transfer and this is now expected to complete on October 1st. During the Covid pandemic the Council has worked in partnership with many organisations on critical response and recovery tasks.</p>
PROJECTS / CAPITAL PROGRAMME (if not covered in CDP)	The major capital projects for the Committee are the Canal and Brimscombe Port which are included in the actions above.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES (see Excelsis where applicable)	<p>None available at this point.</p> <p>Performance indicators need to be reviewed as part of future service planning in the next Corporate Delivery Plan.</p>
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RISKS (see Excelsis)	<p>CCR 1 Budget Savings 9/16</p> <p>A balanced budget was agreed in February 2020. This risk is being constantly reviewed throughout the year in light of the impacts of Covid on the Council’s finances. The Budget Strategy to this committee has been produced with full consideration of pandemic impacts.</p> <p>CCR 4 Business Continuity 16/16</p> <p>This risk is now due to be reviewed after the significant disaster recovery improvements and proven ability to work remotely during the pandemic.</p> <p>CCR10 Inability to recruit specialist staff 4/16 – (previous 16/16)</p> <p>A procurement exercise has been carried out to commission organisational development specialists. Part of their role will be to review Council HR policies and the overall people strategy.</p> <p>CCR 16 Inadequate telephony and IT infrastructure 16/16 – See CDP action 1.7</p> <p>CCR20 – Brexit 16/16</p> <p>The UK is now in transitional arrangements having left the EU in January.</p>
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	<p>The transitional period ends in December 2020 and central government has been clear that this will not be extended. This is likely to lead to an increase in no deal preparations as we move through 2020.</p> <p>No specific risks have been recorded re Covid-19 response but SLT are meeting weekly to consider response.</p> <p>Covid-19 pandemic 16/16</p> <p>The pandemic is being actively managed as an ongoing risk. It has significant impacts, short and long-term on service delivery and financial position.</p> <p>Response management and monitoring systems have been in place since March and will be continuing indefinitely. Some mechanisms of response have been scaled back or stopped over the summer but will be reinstated if required.</p>
RELEVANT FINANCE ISSUES	The budget strategy for the Council is being considered at this committee.
ANY OTHER ISSUES CONSIDERED AT THE MEETING (eg staffing / resources)	
FOLLOW UP (any issues for consideration at the next meeting)	

ANY ISSUES OF SIGNIFICANT CONCERN TO BE REPORTED TO AUDIT AND STANDARDS	
ANY ACTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE	
REPORT SUBMITTED BY	Nigel Cooper and Keith Pearson
DATE OF REPORT	18/09/2020