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| <b>PART B:</b>          | <b>RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL</b>                         |
| <b>REPORT TO:</b>       | <b>POLICY AND RESOURCES</b>                               |
| <b>DATE:</b>            | <b>23 SEPTEMBER 2021</b>                                  |
| <b>REPORT OF THE:</b>   | <b>STRATEGY &amp; PERFORMANCE MANAGER<br/>LYNNE BAYES</b> |
| <b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b> | <b>RYEDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21</b>     |
| <b>WARDS AFFECTED:</b>  | <b>ALL</b>  |

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The Council Plan 2020-2024 acts as the strategic route map of the organisation. Appendix 1 contain the draft annual report, which details progress against the Plan in 2020-21.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 It is recommended to Council that:

- (i) The 2020-21 Annual Report of progress against the Council Plan (2020-2024) is noted.

### **3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 3.1 A Council Plan is an essential part of a Council's strategic planning framework, providing a mechanism for guiding Council business and resource allocation.
- 3.2 Producing an annual report detailing progress on delivery of a Council Plan is considered good practice.
- 3.3 Showing progress against the Plan gives Elected Members and staff the opportunity to celebrate successes. This is particularly pertinent given that throughout the year of 2020-21, the Council was fully engaged in:
  - Activities to suppress the spread of the COVID 19 infection
  - Finding new and more effective ways of managing the virus and enabling life to return closer to normal
  - Minimising damage to the economy, society, jobs and livelihoods.

- 3.4 Showing progress against the Plan also demonstrates to local communities that the Council is delivering on strategic initiatives that will improve the quality of life for residents, as well as making good use of public money.

#### **4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS**

- 4.1 Delivery of Council Plan objectives relating to issues such as combating social isolation, processing benefits quickly, effectively managing homelessness, and supporting the economy mitigated significant risks to lives and livelihoods during 2020-21. Delivery of priorities like electric vehicles charging points, free WIFI and LED street lighting contributed to the delivery of the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.
- 4.2 Work on Council Plan objectives has continued in 2021-2022, with clear progress being made. This progress will be reported separately to Elected Members in the Quarter 1 Performance Report 2021-2022.
- 4.3 Full delivery of the 2020-24 Plan will not be possible given Government's decision to implement local government reform in North Yorkshire. This means that Ryedale will cease to exist by April 2023. A reprioritisation process is being conducted to determine priorities for delivery between now and this date.

#### **5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 The Council Plan 2020-2024 acts as the strategic route map of the organisation. Activities and projects detailed in the Annual Report have been carried out with due regard to any statutory, legislative, constitutional and best value 'tests', delivery against the strategic direction and priorities for the Council.
- 5.2 The District Council is here to serve local people across Ryedale and support all of our communities, alongside those visiting, working and doing business here, to live healthy and happy lives in a vibrant and safe environment. As the Council operates in complex organisational landscape, some aspects of delivery within this report have been dependent on working with others to achieve our goals. The Council thanks all of our partners for their efforts.

### **REPORT**

#### **6.0 REPORT DETAILS**

- 6.1 It is important to note that the attached report will include visual content when it becomes a full public document. The current version is purely a textual one as it is currently in draft.
- 6.2 This Annual Report covers the period April 2020 to March 2021. The most notable factor during this period which has impacted on our performance and supporting monitoring framework, is the Covid-19 pandemic and national lockdown arrangements which continued throughout this period.
- 6.3 It has however, been essential that we have continued to review our outputs and the impacts of these on outcomes for our communities, in line with the Council Plan 2020-2024.

6.4 Year-end reporting is an opportunity to reflect on the previous year and draw lessons to inform future practice, and as such, is an important element of good governance.

6.5 Key areas to highlight in this report are:

COVID business grants

During 2020/21, Ryedale District Council gave out 7,500 grants to local businesses totalling £45m.

Environment

To help the environment and promote sustainability into the future, during 2020/21, Ryedale District Council installed 296 energy-saving LED bulbs in its footway lights and 20 electric vehicle charging points across Ryedale.

Housing benefit processing times

In 2020/21, we processed new housing benefit claims 8.75 days quicker than the national average, and change of circumstances housing benefit claims 4.17 days quicker than the national average.

Safeguarding vulnerable Ryedale residents

The Council played a key role in multi-agency efforts to provide “shielding” services for the most vulnerable people in our communities. This included those who have been recently discharged from NHS care and who need extra support. Ryedale District Council made nearly 3,000 shielding calls, resulting in numerous referrals to community support organisations.

Free public Wi-Fi in Ryedale

During 2020-21, Ryedale District Council launched free public Wi-Fi in Malton, Pickering and Helmsley to identify a high quality, user-friendly and reliable solution to boost businesses and benefit shoppers and visitors.

6.6 The Annual Report 2020/21 will be published on the Council’s website in the interests of transparency.

## **7.0 IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 The following implications have been identified:

a) Financial

Delivery of the Council Plan is reflected in the Medium Term Financial Strategy. Where budget was required outside of the standardised annual cycle for key projects, these were agreed by Committee and with the full endorsement of the Section 151 Officer.

b) Legal

The organisation complied with all relevant statutory, legislative and constitutional matters when executing the delivery of its Council Plan.

c) Resource

Achievements were delivered during the COVID 19 crisis. Performance reporting highlights where we have made effective progress on the Council Plan as part of our on-going business and budget planning.

- d) Other  
Equalities, staffing, health and safety, and policy matters such as environmental and climate change inform the content and execution of the Council Plan on an ongoing basis.

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**Job Title**

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**Background Papers:**

Council Plan 2020 – 2024

<https://www.ryedale.gov.uk/resources/council-plan/>