

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Overview & Scrutiny Committee **DATE:** 18 March 2021

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WARDS: All

PART I **FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

SBC COVID RECOVERY STRATEGY UPDATE

1. **Purpose of Report**

1.1 To provide an update on the Council's Covid Recovery Strategy.

2. **Recommendation**

2.1 Overview & Scrutiny Committee is requested to note and comment on:

- a) The Council's Recovery Strategy and the links to the 2040 Vision and Five Year Plan;
- b) The role of members in supporting and enabling Covid Recovery; and
- c) How the delivery of the Strategy should be scrutinised going forward.

3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy 2020-24**

3.1 Coronavirus has the potential to impact on the long-term delivery of all of the Wellbeing Board's priorities:

1. Starting Well
2. Integration
3. Strong, Healthy and Attractive Neighbourhoods (Building Community Asset Resilience)
4. Workplace Health

4. **Five Year Plan 2020-24 Outcomes**

4.1 Coronavirus has the potential to impact on the long-term delivery of all of the Five Year Plan's priority outcomes:

Outcome 1 - Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful

Outcome 2 - Our people will be healthier and manage their own care needs

Outcome 3 - Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay

Outcome 4 - Our residents will live in good quality homes

Outcome 5 - Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide opportunities for our residents

Note the Five Year Plan has been refreshed for 2021 retaining the same five priority outcomes.

5. **Other Implications**

- (a) **Financial** - There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
- (b) **Risk Management** - There are no identified risks to the proposed actions in this report. A Covid 19 risk register has been developed and will be updated as part of the implementation of the Strategy.
- (c) **Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications** - There are no Human Rights Act implications associated with the proposed actions.
- (d) **Equalities Impact Assessment** - There is no requirement to complete an Equalities Impact Assessment in relation to this report.
- (e) **Workforce** - There are no workforce implications associated with the actions in this report.

6. **Supporting information**

- 6.1 The Council acted swiftly in response to the introduction of the 'lockdown' by the UK government in March 2020 which saw non-essential businesses close down and the population (with the exception of Key Workers) instructed to work from home.
- 6.2 We ensured that the most vulnerable in our community received the help and support they needed particularly those who were isolating as part of the Shielding programme, the homeless and those at risk of harm. We administered at a local level the national business support schemes and undertook research of local employers with employees who were furloughed and those at risk of redundancy when the scheme ends.
- 6.3 At the same time as managing the immediate response to the crisis we have been developing our plans for economic recovery and renewal of the town. Clearly the closure of most businesses combined with the national economic outlook meant that we needed to be in a position where we had robust plans to ensure the resilience of our local economy, the survival of businesses and the creation of new opportunities for employees whose futures were at risk. In June Cabinet approved the Inclusive Growth & Skills Strategy.
- 6.4 Elsewhere our recovery plan focusses on the inevitable health, wellbeing, social and financial aftershocks of the public health crisis.

6.5 The attached slides (Appendix A) provide an overview of the priorities and actions for recovery and renewal. The slides include the milestones set by Government as part of the national roadmap to exit lockdown.

7. **Comments of other committees**

7.1 Cabinet and Scrutiny will work together to provide oversight of our recovery and renewal planning.

8. **Conclusion**

8.1 This report provides an update on our plans for recovery and renewal.

8.2 The Covid Recovery Strategy is a key part of our strategic framework alongside the 2040 Vision developed by Slough's strategic partners and the Council's Five Year Plan. The 2040 Vision effectively provides a strategic vision for Recovery and the Five Year Plan is the Council's contribution to the 2040 Vision.

9. **Appendices attached**

A – Recovery and Renewal planning (slides)

10. **Background papers**

None.