

Progress towards the Council's Vision, Priorities and Pledges

Resources and Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee 12th March 2018

Author:	Director of Performance, Organisational Improvement and Communications
Wards:	All Wards
Parishes Affected:	All Parishes

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 The report is gives details of the progress being made towards the Council's Vision , Priorities and Pledges

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the contents of the report.

3. Detail

Background

- 3.1 The Council Plan 2016-2020 sets out the vision for Swindon and the priorities it aims to achieve for residents. In order to deliver the Council's Vision, the Council has identified four Priorities and 30 pledges.

Progress with the Council Vision is publicly available on the Council website at <https://www.swindon.gov.uk/vision>. It is updated quarterly with additional performance data and a narrative on progress made or challenges faced.

The progress for each Goal is tracked and rated according to the progress achieved as 'On Track, Achieved Goal, Measuring or Needs Improvement'. Performance is also published on the Corporate Scorecard which is available for Members and Senior Officers.

Review of Council Priorities

- 3.2 Priority One – Improve infrastructure and housing to support a growing, low-carbon economy

Progress towards the Council's Vision, Priorities and Pledges

Resources and Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee 12th March 2018

Pledges in Priority One cover aspects of infrastructure including high speed broadband, housing, energy, transport and regeneration. Good infrastructure is important in order to attract new businesses, retain existing ones and meet the needs of a growing town.

Current progress suggests that the Council is on track to deliver eleven of the thirteen pledges that contribute the Priority One. The Council has successfully completed two of these Pledges by completing the regeneration of Sussex Square and the Town Centre Health Centre. Other regeneration projects such as town centre pedestrian routes and brown field sites are on track for a successful completion.

There have been delays in the Kimmerfields Development. This has impacted on the further regeneration of the area, road network and the provision of a new bus station. A revised plan to build on the existing regeneration is due to go to Cabinet in July 2018

The Council is on track to deliver its Pledges relating to the provision of Superfast Broadband and solar arrays. Pledges relating to the New Eastern Villages and Wichelstowe are also currently on track.

In terms of current housing, the Council is on track to meet the Decent Homes Standard and to improve the quality of rented properties.

The Pledges and Goals in Priority One, along with current progress can be seen in the appendices.

3.3 Priority Two – Offer education opportunities that lead to the right skills and right jobs in the right places

Pledges in Priority Two address improving education, attainment and employment. High quality education and good levels of skills are vital components of the Council's Vision to be one of the UK's most successful economies.

Current progress suggests that the Council are on track in its Pledge relating to the economy and investment. GVA and employment rates are above target and there has been an increase in the number of jobs and business rates collected. Work remains to be done relating to businesses employing apprentices within the borough.

There are current challenges in the Pledges relating to education. The Council is on track to deliver the required number of schools in line with its population and experiences good performance relating to early education and primary school settings. However, Swindon is underperforming in relation to school and Higher

Progress towards the Council's Vision, Priorities and Pledges

Resources and Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee 12th March 2018

Education attainment. The Swindon Challenge and development of a Higher Education Strategy have been put in place to address these issues.

The Pledges and Goals in Priority Two, along with current progress can be seen in the appendices.

3.4 Priority Three – Ensure clean and safe streets and improve public spaces and local culture

Pledges in Priority Three track progress focus on ensuring that public spaces are well maintained and safe as well as developing cultural and leisure provision within the Borough.

Progress in delivering the Pledges in Priority Three is good. Three of the four Pledges on track. There have been improvements made to the cleanliness of local areas. Progress is being made in developing new leisure and cultural activities in Swindon. The Council has worked with the Swindon Museum and Art Gallery Trust to submit a bid for a new museum to the Heritage and Lottery Fund. A new agreement has been signed to develop a leisure complex at North Star. The Council has also seen an increase in visitors to its museums and there is a higher than average amount of people using green space within the Borough.

There have been challenges in the rejuvenation of the Mechanics Institute and Corn Exchange however recent developments include external funding and land agreements. These mean that options and plans can now be developed to progress these goals.

Crime and road deaths / injuries remain a challenge within Swindon. Violent crime has risen dramatically since 2012 and although starting to show a decline, it is significantly higher than previously experienced. The number of people killed and seriously injured is also much higher than the target. A programme of schemes to address this is due to go to Cabinet in March.

The Pledges and Goals in Priority Three, along with current progress can be seen in the appendices.

3.5 Priority Four – Help people to help themselves while always protecting the most vulnerable children and adults

Pledges in Priority Four track progress focus on ensuring that children are safe from harm, adults are supported to live independent lives and improve the wellbeing of the population of Swindon.

Progress in delivering Priority Four is generally good. Four of the seven pledges are on target. The close partnership with the CCG continues and there have

Progress towards the Council's Vision, Priorities and Pledges

Resources and Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee 12th March 2018

been significant improvements in the performance of delayed bed days attributable to adult social care. Swindon is also performing above target in relation to its Troubled Families. The number of children receiving a second child protection plan is lower than the national average.

Care leavers in Swindon are more likely to go on to education training or employment compared to the national average and those with learning difficulties going into employment are also higher than the national average. There are performance issues relating to children in care (foster, adoption or with family/friend) where performance is 10% lower than targeted. A Service Improvement Plan is in place to increase fostering households.

In terms of health, smoking prevalence in the Borough is below the national average. Excess weight is an issue at primary and secondary age where it is currently slightly higher than the national average. However, adults in Swindon are more likely to be physically active.

Annual review for clients are carers varies. The Council is currently on track to exceed its target of reviewing carers but is not predicted to meet its target for client reviews.

The Council is on track to meet its target for collecting council tax and council tax support claims are falling however it is not predicted to reduce the annual bailiff referrals compared to the number of house.

The Pledges and Goals in Priority Four, along with current progress can be seen in the appendices.

4. Alternative Options

4.1 N/A

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The cost of delivering the Pledges and Priorities is covered within existing budgets.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

5.2 Legal and Human Rights implications were taken into account when preparing this report. It is considered that the report's recommendations are compatible with Convention Rights.

Progress towards the Council's Vision, Priorities and Pledges

Resources and Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee 12th March 2018

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 There are no other implications at this time.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 No Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) was undertaken as this report will not lead to any service changes. However, all actions to achieve the Pledges follow an appropriate DIA in accordance with the Council's agreed DIA framework

Risk Management

- 5.5 Risk management assessments take place on actions to achieve the Pledges in accordance with the Council's Risk Management Framework

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Priority 1 Progress

Pledge	Pledge Wording	Rating
1	Deliver the Government standard Superfast Broadband coverage to all commercial and domestic premises in the Borough by 2017.	On Track
2	Construct solar arrays on Council-owned land at Common Farm, Chapel Farm and a solar noise barrier along roads including the M4 at Wichelstowe.	On Track
3	Demolish the obsolete Carlton Street and Wyvern car parks and use the space for regeneration.	Needs Improvement
4	Make the case to Government to invest in a Thamesdown Drive extension and surrounding road	On Track

Progress towards the Council's Vision, Priorities and Pledges

Resources and Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee 12th March 2018

	improvements.	
5	Replace the current Health Centre in the town centre with a new and improved facility.	Achieved Goal
6	Establish effective and appealing pedestrian links from the Town Centre to North Star and enhance Wellington Street as a prime thoroughfare for the town.	On Track
7	Build new affordable homes including 200 new council homes and 66 units through the Affordable Housing Development programme at sites including the Hawthorns, the Royal British Legion site in Penhill, Townsend House in Old Town and the Former Refuge in Park South.	On Track
8	Complete the redevelopment of Sussex Square.	Achieved Goal
9	Develop Council-owned brownfield sites at Oakfield, and other sites as they become available, for housing.	On Track
10	As part of the town's regeneration: Re-develop the former Aspen House site / Granville Street area, to extend on the successful Regent Circus development. Make Havelock Square an attractive, safe open space to complement local shops	On Track- Havelock Square is achieved
11	Replace the current bus station with a new and modern facility	Needs Improvement
12	Improve the town centre road network to pave the way for the Kimmerfields development.	Needs Improvement
13	Improve highway linkages to the Eastern Villages, particularly around the White Hart roundabout.	On Track
14	With Barratt Homes we will build up to 3,500 homes in Wichelstowe including the development of a district	On Track

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Samantha Mowbray, 07823 525337, smowbray@swindon.gov.uk.

Progress towards the Council's Vision, Priorities and Pledges

Resources and Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee 12th March 2018

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8.2 Priority 2 Progress

Pledge	Pledge Wording	Rating
15	In addition to the two new Free secondary schools, build one secondary and 12 primary schools to meet the needs of our increasing population.	On Track
16	Improve the reputation and image of Swindon to attract inward investment.	On Track
17	Improve educational attainment, in particular at ages 16-19 so we are above the average in England within five years.	Needs Improvement
18	Increase the number of businesses employing young people as an apprentice from 15% to 20% (an additional 280).	Needs Improvement
19	Secure a range of options to access Higher Education in Swindon.	Needs Improvement

8.3 Priority 3 Progress

Pledge	Pledge Wording	Rating
20	Find new ways to engage communities and neighbourhoods to increase the cleanliness of their local areas.	On Track
21	Secure a new Museum and Art Gallery that can showcase the high quality art and exhibits that we possess.	On Track

Progress towards the Council's Vision, Priorities and Pledges

Resources and Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee 12th March 2018

22	Support the development of the new regional leisure destination at North Star.	On Track
23	Secure a sustainable future for the Mechanics Institute. Support the redevelopment of the Corn Exchange.	Needs Improvement

8.4 Priority 4 Progress

Pledge	Pledge Wording	Rating
24	Provide early support for people in debt so that we significantly reduce the need to use bailiffs to recover Council Tax and other debts.	Needs Improvement
25	Deliver a borough-wide approach to increase the impact of volunteering, enabling more people to be active citizens in their communities.	Needs Improvement
26	Work with the Clinical Commissioning Group and GP surgeries to help people with long term health and social care needs to manage their health effectively with support from community groups and multi-disciplinary teams	On Track
27	Ensure that more people and their carers' are supported to live as independently as possible and reduce the length of time people need to spend in residential care.	On Track
28	Increase the number of foster carers in Swindon so that every 'child looked after' who should be, is placed in their home borough.	Needs Improvement
29	Work with all of the 1270 families in Swindon who are in most need of support by 2020 in phase 2 of the Troubled Families Programme.	On Track
30	Reduce smoking prevalence to less than the England average.	On Track