

**Blaby District Council  
Cabinet Executive**

This report was considered and approved by Cabinet at its meeting on 22 March 2021, and has been included on the agenda for Scrutiny Commission Members.

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	22 March 2021
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Blaby District Plan – Annual Priorities 2021-22</b> This is a Key Decision and is on the Forward Plan.
<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Cllr. Terry Richardson - Leader of the Council</b>
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Executive
<b>Corporate Priority</b>	All Priorities: A Place to Live; A Place to Work; A Place to Visit; People Strategy; Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

**1. What is this report about?**

- 1.1 This report sets out the annual priorities for the delivery of the Blaby Plan for 2021-22 for approval.

**2. Recommendation(s) to Cabinet Executive**

- 2.1 That the annual priorities for the Blaby District Plan are approved.

**3. Reason for Decisions Recommended**

- 3.1 The Blaby District Plan, approved by Council in January 2021, sets out the priorities for the Council for the period 2021- 24. An annual plan sets out the aspirations and intent of the Council for the year ahead.

**4. Matters to consider**

4.1 Background

At its January meeting, Council approved the Blaby District Plan which sets out the Council's vision and priorities from 2021- 24. This was a high level, strategic document which confirmed the Council's aspirations around three themes, A Place to Live, A Place to Work and, A Place to Visit. This document is supported by our People Strategy and, this year, by some financial principles.

It is important that the high level ambitions are translated into key actions and, desired outcomes so that the delivery of the Plan can be measured. These actions are identified in the Annual Priorities Plan, attached for approval at Appendix A.

Whilst the proposed plan seeks to encompass all key ambitions, the document itself needs to be flexible enough to respond to any challenges which may arise though the year.

The delivery of the Plan will be monitored by the Senior Leadership Team, Portfolio Holders and, subject to Scrutiny. A half yearly update against the plan will be presented to the Cabinet Executive in October 2021.

Given that the Council is still responding to the pressures of the Covid-19 pandemic, the annual plan for the year 2021-22 will largely be focussed on recovery from the pandemic and, a return to a redefined 'business as usual'. As already stated, the detail sits in the report at Appendix A but, from a strategic perspective, the overarching focus will be on cementing 'the Way we Work', delivering digitally, continuing to ensure that the most vulnerable in our communities are well supported, considering how we support business to recover from the pandemic, understanding our green agenda ambitions and, focussing on the development of our Local Plan.

As we move through years 2 and 3 of the plan, we shall see the development and delivery of new initiatives which support the 'Live, Work and Visit agenda' but, year 1 will be very much focussed on recovery and consolidation.

#### 4.2 Proposal(s)

As stated, the detail of the plan is set out within Appendix A. Some of the key points are as follows: -

- A Place to Live – the Strategic Planning team will continue to focus on the development of the Local Plan in accordance with the timetable. We shall, as we come out of the pandemic, understand our role in supporting communities and, shape our organisation accordingly. We shall realise the investment that the Council has made into the Housing and Homeless Service by delivering the ambitions within the new Housing Strategy. The Green Agenda will be a consideration in all aspects of service delivery.
- A Place to Work – the absolute priority within this objective will be to provide ongoing support to our businesses to support their recovery from the Covid – 19 pandemic. Linked to this will be how we work with partners to provide work and skills opportunities within the district.
- A Place to Visit – we shall continue to play an active part in the Tourism Partnership, supporting partners with the launch of their new facilities at Castle Acres and Everards Meadows. We shall review the Council's

Green Space Strategy which will clearly define our commitment to the green spaces in the district. We shall continue to work towards the delivery of our 'Walk / Ride Blaby District' agenda.

- People Strategy – Defining ‘the Way We Work’ and, supporting staff to embed this change will be key in the twelve months ahead. We will ensure that employees and elected members are equipped with the tools they need to carry out their roles effectively
- Financial Priorities – ensuring the sustainability of the Council is always the first priority. We will enable this by seeking out funding opportunities wherever we can, looking to grow our income and, continuing to ensure that we deliver our services as efficiently as possible.

#### 4.3 Relevant Consultations

A public consultation process was undertaken as part of the Blaby District Plan process and, that feedback has been incorporated into the annual plan.

#### 4.4 Significant Issues

All relevant consideration have been encompassed within the report.

### 5. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

5.1 The annual budget, approved by Council on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021, supports the delivery of the Blaby District Plan.

### 6. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

6.1

Current Risk	Actions to reduce the risks
That the actions within the plan are not delivered.	Effective performance management processes are in place to monitor the delivery of the plan or, to consider and necessary mitigation.
That issues / challenges arise which are not detailed within the Plan.	The plan is a flexible, working document which will be reviewed regularly to reflect and necessary changes.

### 7. Other options considered

No other options have been considered. It is appropriate that there is an action plan in place to support the delivery of the Blaby District Plan.

## **8. Environmental impact**

- 8.1 The green agenda is a key priority for the Council and, there are actions within the annual plan which support the delivery of this priority.

## **9. Other significant issues**

- 9.1 In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities, and Climate Local and there are no areas of concern.

## **10. Appendix**

- 10.1 Appendix A – Blaby District Plan – Annual Plan 2021-22

## **11. Background paper(s)**

- 11.1 [Report and Appendices - Council Meeting – 19 January 2021 - The Blaby District Plan 2021-24](#)

## **12. Report author's contact details**

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