

Blaby District Plan Annual Priorities 2021 – 22 - Appendix A

Action	Strand	Portfolio	Blaby Plan Priorities 2021-2024	2021/22 Service Commitment	Future Years Commitment
Deliver our Climate Change Strategy and, champion the Green Agenda in all we do	Live	Housing and Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Continue to reduce our own carbon footprint o Encourage residents and businesses to embrace the green agenda and implement green initiatives o Champion environmentally friendly travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .- To continue to deliver the Carbon Neutral Action Plan. .- To continue to use the Climate Change Strategy to assist a Green Recovery post Covid 19 to create sustainable communities, low carbon networks and a thriving local economy .- Produce Communications Plan to support the Climate Change Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .- On an annual basis to provide an update report to full Council on the progress made on the Carbon Neutral Action Plan. .- To continue to work with key partners to achieve the commitment of the Council being carbon neutral by 2030 and the district carbon neutral by 2050.
Deliver the right housing in the right places	Live	Planning & Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Agree a Local Plan for Blaby District o Aim to deliver all new housing in accordance with the Blaby Growth Plan o Deliver housing of a type and tenure that people within the district need 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .- Progress the new Local Plan to draft submission stage, ready for Reg 19 (formal) public consultation. Continue to ensure Scrutiny, wider Member and cross-organisational input .- Ensure that the new Local Plan incorporates the Blaby Growth Plan principles .- Ensure that where possible new housing developments comply with the Growth Plan principles in advance of the new Local Plan .- Assess all proposals for housing development to ensure that the housing mix, type and tenure meet local requirements .- Continue to engage the Housing Strategy Team on individual applications and the new Local Plan, .- Continue the Affordable housing Working Group .- Respond to Government consultations to ensure that Blaby's ambitions are reflected in National Policy .- Continue to seek funding where available to ensure affordable housing delivery .- Adopt the new Housing Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .- Finalise and adopt the new Local Plan .- Review the Affordable Housing & Housing Mix SPD .- Produce a Design SPD .- Assess all proposals for housing development to ensure that the housing mix, type and tenure meet local requirements .- Continue to engage the Housing Strategy Team on individual applications .- Continue the Affordable housing Working Group
Work in partnership to keep our communities safe and healthy	Live	Leisure & Regulatory Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Continue to ensure the success of the Community Safety Partnership o Support Health partners to provide a holistic and preventative joined up service to residents o Promote and deliver health and physical activity programmes o Promote the use of the Districts Leisure facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .- Work with the CCG, PCN's, Public Health and the Blaby Health Partnership to develop a joined up local Health Plan .- Finalise and launch Active Blaby to provide residents with access to a wide range of physical activity opportunities .- Deliver and seek future funding for the Social Prescribing Service .- Support our Leisure Centre operator to re-open our Leisure Centres and to work towards pre-Covid income levels .- Aim to secure developer contributions to improve local sports infrastructure .- Continue to play an active role in the Community Safety Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .- To continue to work with key health partners to improve both the physical and mental wellbeing of our residents. .- To maximise our offer through our leisure centres.

Action	Strand	Portfolio	Blaby Plan Priorities 2021-2024	2021/22 Service Commitment	Future Years Commitment
Help people to help themselves and live independently	Live	Leisure & Regulatory Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Continue to invest in local voluntary and community groups o Continue to work closely with our Parish and Town Councils o Review services to ensure we are providing the right support to help residents to lead healthy and independent lives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .- Action plan driven by VCS questionnaire .- Support to VCS organisations through: Health checks , 1.2.1 support, Community Network Blaby District events, workshops, training and webinars. .- Communication – Provide timely information through content on our webpages and through regular newsletters. .- Funding support: deliver community grants programme, the Love Blaby Lottery and funding application workshops. .- BDC volunteers - continue to grow this offer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .-To continue to review our action plan and seek the views of the VCS in all future plans .- Agreement to continue to fund the grants programme and resource the lottery .- Continue to support our VCS during the Covid-recovery period .- Explore ways in which our VCS can work more in partnership, including any opportunities to apply for joint funding to increase collaboration in the sector .- BC volunteers - investigate if a VCs organisation could run the service for us.
Deliver services which are 'digital by choice'	Live	Corporate Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Review our customer service delivery model to ensure that those who can access services digitally choose to do so and, those that can't have suitable alternative options o Understand the needs of our community by using information, data and local knowledge well o Work in partnership to deliver the Leicestershire ICT Partnership Digital Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .- Create a project plan which reviews the areas for consideration, the order and the timeline. .- Update the Marketing and Communications plan to create a greater reach to our communities and to generate a better understanding of the ever changing community needs. .- Agree and communicate a revised service delivery model .- Continue to promote the take up of online services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .- Create additional on line offerings for service users that wish to access services this way. .- Continually review our approach to service delivery in line with customer needs and expectations. .- Working in partnership, create new and improved approached to ICT delivery
Support businesses in our district, encourage investment and growth and respond to evolving challenges that they may face	Work	Leisure & Regulatory Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Provide support to businesses to aid recovery from the COVID19 pandemic o Review, relaunch and deliver the agreed Economic Development Strategy to help create a sustainable and vibrant economy that works for all 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .- Digital support, Support businesses to diversify their offer, .- Business premises – some Districts offer shared buildings/office space that they own, consider how Blaby can do this. .- Look at establishing sector specific support. .- Share success stories i.e. case studies, examples of businesses that have survived and thrived and why. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .- To work with key partners to deliver an Economic Development Strategy that ensures support for all of our businesses. .- To support our businesses in accessing future funding opportunities. .- To review the account manager role within the Business hub.

Action	Strand	Portfolio	Blaby Plan Priorities 2021-2024	2021/22 Service Commitment	Future Years Commitment
Work with partners to deliver accessible, local employment and training opportunities	Work	Leisure & Regulatory Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Keep local businesses informed and encourage them to provide opportunities supported by government such as apprenticeships and training o To continually review and enhance our offer to businesses through the support supplied by our business hub o To work with key partners to deliver an integrated works and skills service o Work closely with partners to ensure that opportunities arising from the new prison project are realised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with developers of strategic sites as they come forward to ensure employment opportunities for local people are adopted at an early stage. - Education – To continue to work closely with our schools to develop our offer for young people including work experience placements, career pathway films. - To ensure we keep communicating with our businesses, for example Business Boost and Business Breakfasts, Work and Skills Hub - DWP partnership, TCE, Tourism Partnership - Share opportunities and work with internal BDC Teams i.e. Benefits Team, Resident Support and vulnerable residents they work with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To continue to work with the Project Team and key partners to make the most of opportunities available through the new prison project. - To identify opportunities at other strategic sites in terms of employment and training.
Promote a healthy workforce and work places across Blaby District	Work	Leisure & Regulatory Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Work with businesses to ensure that wellbeing at work is promoted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deliver the Leicestershire & Rutland Workplace Health initiative. - To work with HR to ensure the wellbeing of all the Council's employees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To use every opportunity available to us through our contacts with businesses to promote a healthy workforce.
Promote 'think local' in everything that we do.	Work	Leisure & Regulatory Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Support local business with advice, guidance and signposting o Support stakeholders to maintain and enhance their local amenities o Encourage businesses to work with their local communities to be socially accountable in their planning and operations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To deliver the Blaby Town Centre Project funded through the LLEP. - To work with our businesses and the Communications Team to run shop local campaigns. - To support our local areas and amenities by running events with our businesses. - To encourage our businesses to be socially responsible and join in with volunteering and other community based activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To expand the number of businesses that are actively involved in our annual community volunteer weeks.

Action	Strand	Portfolio	Blaby Plan Priorities 2021-2024	2021/22 Service Commitment	Future Years Commitment
Promote Blaby District as a tourism destination	Visit	Leisure & Regulatory Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Support the delivery of the Blaby District Tourism Growth Plan o Play an active part in the Blaby District Tourism Partnership o Deliver strategic projects that enhance the district and encourage people to visit o Work with groups and businesses that manage historic sites and green spaces to provide the infrastructure to enhance their places. o Support stakeholders to encourage promotion of their sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .- Deliver the 21/22 Tourism Growth Plan Action Plan .- Facilitate regular Tourism Partnership meetings to support the Tourism sector .- Monitor and grow the Tourism digital platforms .- Deliver the Fosse Fox Tourism & Heritage Trail .- Deliver a Community Archaeology Dig at Bouskell Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .- Review the Tourism Growth Plan .
Continue to promote and focus on our ambitions for Walk / Ride Blaby District	Visit	Leisure & Regulatory Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Improve options for travel for leisure and work o Consider innovative ways to help contribute to the improvement of air quality and traffic congestion o Encourage and promote use of Blaby District footpaths and cycle ways 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .- Develop a Walk & Ride strategy .- Develop a Walk & Ride Implementation Plan (LCWIP) .- Deliver a new £1m route from Lubbesthorpe to Braunstone (with new access to the City) .- Co-ordinate & improve local cycling and walking information .- Ensure walk & cycle routes are a key element of the local plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .- To continue to support connectivity across the district including developing routes from our Tourism venues and our smaller routes between villages.
Provide desirable, accessible green spaces for our visitors and communities	Visit	Neighbourhood Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Develop, agree and commence delivery of a Green Space Strategy o Maintain our green spaces to benefit residents and visitors o Promote green spaces as a contribution to the health and well-being of visitors and residents o Improve and enhance wildlife and biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .- Review the Council's green space strategy in conjunction with Planning and Tourism Teams .- Review and update current Open Spaces Management plans giving due consideration to both social and environmental outcomes .- Consider opportunities for maximising income on key strategic sites .- Undertake essential improvement works as per capital plans including flood alleviation schemes, and expansion of Bouskell car park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .- Deliver agreed initiatives that generate an income on strategic sites .- Review role of volunteers and corporate volunteers in undertaking maintenance at strategic sites .- Undertake essential improvement works as per the approved capital programme

Action	Strand	Portfolio	Blaby Plan Priorities 2021-2024	2021/22 Service Commitment	Future Years Commitment
Transform the way we work as we recover from the Covid19 pandemic	People Strategy	HR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ensure that all employees have the equipment and training to do their job well o Continue to improve communication with staff and Members o Promote positive working practices which support good health and wellbeing o Ensure fair treatment for all 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to embed cross services working to support the People Strategy. - Finalise and implement a Blaby L&D plan - Develop and implement an action plan for hybrid working 21st June 2021 onwards - Continue to survey staff and managers whilst engaging through Sounding Board, Trade Union Colleagues and other forums - Work with external organisations such as LAMP, EMC, other district Councils, LLRS, LLR Wellbeing Partnership Finalise and implement Staff Mental Health Support Plan Continue to revise and review internal policy and practice and sector good practice examples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to support staff to do their jobs well through L&D, policy and practice, wellbeing support and communication
Support our staff and Members through the delivery of the transformation of services	People Strategy	Corporate Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Transform the 'Way We Work' to ensure the best outcomes for customers o Provide training to further develop skills and knowledge, keep up to date with new developments o Put the right tools and resources in place to help to improve and deliver services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In the light of the pandemic, create a revised approach to office occupancy and home working arrangements, this will include reviewing the training and equipment available to all staff and Elected Members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to refine the approach to delivering services and working arrangements, taking advantage of new and improved technologies.
Promote and champion Blaby District at every level to ensure the best outcomes for our communities	People Strategy	Chief Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Work with partners to deliver services in new and innovative ways o Lead on and share services where it is the right thing to do for residents and staff o Promote the Council as an employer of choice to ensure that we attract and retain the best employees and members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formally establish Leicestershire Building Control Partnership, ensuring all delegations in place Review governance of Lightbulb to ensure that it is fit for purpose - Continue to explore collaborative working arrangements, Work with the Leicestershire ICT partnership to ensure a smooth transition to the new contractual arrangements - Continue to develop the Lightbulb Programme to support the residents of Leicestershire to remain in their homes - Explore future shared service and collaborative opportunities - Continue to be a great place to work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain staff satisfaction and high satisfaction with the way we communicate. - Focus on recruitment and attracting the right people to do the right jobs.

Action	Strand	Portfolio	Blaby Plan Priorities 2021-2024	2021/22 Service Commitment	Future Years Commitment
Continue to monitor and manage income and expenditure, delivering sustainable services, placing Blaby District Council in the best financial position possible	MTFS	Finance		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .- Complete the implementation of the "Collaborative Planning" budget monitoring and budget forecasting module within the Financial Management System, and roll out to budget managers commencing 1st April 2021. .- Monthly reporting of establishment budgets and key income streams, along with any residual financial implications of COVID-19. .- Respond to Government consultation papers in respect of the future of New Homes Bonus, Business Rates Retention, and Fair Funding. .- Model the financial implications of the consultation papers within our MTFS in order to understand the future budget gap. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .- Ongoing monitoring of the Council's key expenditure and income budgets. .- Continue to refine and develop the MTFS, taking into account the changes to local government funding, in particular the implications for business rates growth and appeals. .- Continue to develop and refine the 5 year Capital Programme to build on existing replacement and improvement plans.
Seek new, innovative ways of maximising income or reducing costs in order to support service delivery	MTFS	Finance		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .- Financial support for development of the business case for delegation of the Building Control Partnership. .- Provide financial support for the collaborative working agenda and proposed shared service programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .- Review of chargeable, non-statutory services to ensure that, as a minimum, they are cost neutral. .- Ongoing support for shared service proposals.
Seek external funding opportunities whenever we can to enhance our services	MTFS	Directors	o Ensuring the Financial Sustainability of the Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .- Understand the implications of the Consultations on Fair Funding, New Homes Bonus and Business Rates and how the authority can maximise potential of benefitting from these revenue streams. .- Develop a co-ordinated approach to identifying external funding opportunities and ensure the council has adequate resource to apply for such funding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .- Continue to ensure the Council has a co-ordinated approach to maximising external funding opportunities.
Encourage a commercial, business-like approach to service delivery, balancing charging for services against keeping the customer at the heart of everything we do.	MTFS	Directors	o Ensuring the Financial Sustainability of the Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .- Continue to review all non-mandatory services to ensure that, at a minimum, all costs are recovered. .- Develop a basis for charging within shared service models to ensure that all costs of delivery are recovered. .- Revisit the Commercial Strategy Action Plan as recovery starts to progress and the landscape is understood. .- Continue to monitor the SLM contract arrangements and the long-term financial revenue that may be generated from this contract. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .- Continue to revisit the Commercial Strategy and the Action Plan therein to ensure it reflects the economic climate and opportunities open to the Council.

Action	Strand	Portfolio	Blaby Plan Priorities 2021-2024	2021/22 Service Commitment	Future Years Commitment
Actively consider opportunities to work with partners to deliver effective, efficient, services that provide best value for the residents.	MTFS	Directors		.- To collaborate with others to explore future opportunities for shared services	.- To review Draft Shared Services programme
Maximise the use of our assets	MTFS	Neighbourhood Services		.- Complete renovations to the Grange and rent out to the private rented sector .-Deliver the replacement of existing gas boilers with more energy efficient Air Source Heat Pumps .- Investigate short term options for best utilisation of Council Office accommodation and building	.- Fully understand scope for moving the Council's vehicle fleet towards alternative non-fossil fuel technologies. .- Review the long term solution to office accommodation needs in a post Covid environment