

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**DATE:** 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018

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**WARD(S):** All

### **PART I** **FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

#### **FIVE YEAR PLAN – OUTCOME 3**

##### 1. **Purpose of Report**

To provide the Committee with an overview of the progress being made in enacting Outcome 3 of the Five Year Plan – *Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay.*

##### 2. **Recommendations**

The Committee is requested to

- a) consider and comment on the progress of Outcome 3 Key Actions and if appropriate identify areas where they would like to receive further detail or updates
- b) support further engagement with and contributions from businesses and communities for, in particular
  - the development of a Business Improvement District (BID) to bring more resources to the town centre
  - the enhancement of the towns open spaces and neighbourhoods

##### 3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

###### 3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

Creating an attractive environment which provides a safe, pleasant and clean place for local residents supports the following outcomes directly:

- Improving mental health and wellbeing

###### 3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

This report discusses Outcome 3, namely:

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

The Committee is advised that there are strong synergies with other aspects of the Five Year Plan and especially Outcome 5 – Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide opportunities for our residents.

4. **Other Implications**

(a) Financial

As specific budget has been created for the enhancement of the town centre over the next 4 years, which is managed by the economic growth & enterprise manager.

Otherwise the work to prioritise Outcome 3 actions is delivered within existing resources, budgets and partnerships, such as the Safer Slough Partnership

(b) Risk Management

<b>Recommendation from section 2 above</b>	<b>Risks/Threats/ Opportunities</b>	<b>Current Controls</b>	<b>Future Controls</b>
Support further engagement with and contributions from businesses and communities	The Business Improvement District proposal  'Friends' schemes	Town Centre Budget agreed	The creation and maintenance of partnership arrangements will ensure that such plans are adequately funded and resourced

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act or other legal implications to the content of this report.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

The production of this report has not required the compilation of an Equalities Impact Assessment. Individual projects featured in the report have had or shall have such assessments carried out as appropriate.

5. **Supporting Information**

5.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has previously discussed the Five Year Plan in 2017 – 18. However, given the significant changes to Outcome 3 (which has had all key actions replaced) this report will provide an introduction to the new corporate priorities outlined in the Five Year Plan.

5.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee also held a training event on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018 which discussed the Five Year Plan outcomes and the Committee's priorities for this. These have been shared with the report's authors and are reflected in the content of this document. The report provides an overview on the delivery of the outcome actions and a short narrative for each key action, with more detailed data and information provided as Appendices.

5.3 Outcome 3 is wide reaching and cross cutting in nature requiring the successful engagement of teams in different Directorates. The lead officer is the Service Lead Regulatory Services who attends and reports into the council's Performance Board. Current reported performance measures for Outcome 3 and delivery milestones are shown in Appendix 1

5.4 The 4 key actions for this year under Outcome 3 have designated leads who have each developed specific delivery teams

- a. **Establish a town team to ensure a clean and safe town centre** Lead: Service Lead Regulatory Services
- b. **Plant one million bulbs with our communities in our open spaces and parks** lead: Parks, Open Spaces, Crematorium and Cemetery Manager
- c. **Ask residents via a town wide place survey what they feel about the town and use the results to shape future plans** Lead: Communications Manager
- d. **Co-create strong and attractive neighbourhoods** Lead: Service Lead Leisure & Communities

#### **Establish a Town Team to Ensure a Clean and Safe Town Centre**

5.5 The recreated Town Team first meet in June 2018 to focus on Outcome 3 and was championed by Cllr Carter, Cllr Mann and the Chief Executive with the initial emphasis upon rapid improvement of the town centre within '30 days'. The Town Team is now moving to '100 days' improvements and will progress to '6 months' and 'Meanwhile'; becoming the vision to actively manage the transition period towards the longer term regeneration of the town centre to ensure that we have the best quality offer possible for the town.

The work of the town team is supported by the programme management office and progress is reported to Cabinet via the Silver Project Highlight Report on 'Clean, Safe and Vibrant' (Town Centre)

Rapid progress has been made on improving the town centre and the '30 day' vision agreed was to deliver **'An uplifted visual backdrop in the town centre to support and showcase more events'** and the priorities were to:

- Provide Interim Wardens in Town Centre patrols
- Deep Clean of Town Centre
- Co-ordinated events programme – co-location of events organisation
- Increase Floral Displays
- Renew Lamp Column Banners
- Paint Lamp Columns
- Completion of 30 day pledges
- Disputed ownership areas cleared of rubbish
- Shape performance reporting on outcomes
- Draft Communications plan for discussion

These priorities were all achieved by the end of July 2018 and further details on the work completed are included in Appendix 2

The Town Team is now focussing on the next 70 days taking the work to the '100 day' stage with the vision; **'A clean and attractive Town Centre hosting more**

**events enjoyed by more people'** and a breakdown of the main priorities are outlined in Appendix 3. The work to deliver these 100 day priorities is captured in project timeline charts to assist effective monitoring of performance.

Further work is underway to agree a 'meanwhile strategy' to ensure that the transition of the town centre prior to and during regeneration of the area is managed well with positive input from business, other partners and our communities. For example, the lease agreement for the former 'Top Shop' site in the High street has recently been completed to become the base for HOME Slough and consultation on the feasibility progress for the Business Improvement District has also been completed.

### **Plant One Million Bulbs with our Communities in our Parks and Open Spaces**

5.6 The Parks, Allotments and Open Spaces Service have planted over 600,000 bulbs with the community in the parks and open spaces during the last year with over 400,00 being planted this autumn.

Key to the decisions about where to plant the bulbs has been local councillors who have spent their CIF budget on bulbs, working with local communities and planting in areas where there will be a visual impact for the most people. Sites that have already been planted are along the A4 on the Kedermister Park frontage to enhance the area following the road works, Herschel, Springate Field, Pippins and Manor Parks.

In addition bulbs have been added to the summer bedding creating more colour over the summer period for example in the Cemetery and Crematorium grounds; many local people helped to plant the bulbs some through existing 'Friends' schemes.

Native bulbs and bulbs to attract bees and butterflies have been planted. The Green Flag judges were particularly impressed with the thousands of bluebells in Pippin's Park which were in flower for weeks.

The bulbs have been featured in the photographs by local people at Slough Horticultural Show on August 18th and some have won prizes and will feature in the Parks and Open Spaces Calendar for 2019.

Photographs of the bulbs at various locations in Slough are in Appendix 4 and Appendix 5 shows examples of the bulb mix have been planted at Kederminster

### **Ask Residents via a Town Wide Place Survey What They Feel About the Town and Use the Results to Shape Future Plans**

5.7 The 2018 Place Survey is due to take place during September 2018, with results being received in December.

The survey will be a postal survey of residents, demographically and geographically spread, netting 1,500 responses which is around one percent of the population.

The survey uses the methodology and some of the question bank from the 2008 survey, tweaked to suit Slough's needs. This means 10 year comparisons can be

made and provides reassurance that both the methodology and questions are robust.

Procurement for an external company to run the survey, collate the raw data, and do initial analysis is underway.

### **Co-create Strong and Attractive Neighbourhoods**

5.8 An officer workshop was run in June 2018 to identify the lead officers and teams to help delivery this key action and the work has now been built in to the SBC One Council Community Development / Community Engagement Group. The first meeting where the key action will be incorporated into the work of the One Council group takes place on 1st October 2018 and from that meeting an action plan will be developed

There is already significant ongoing work being undertaken in communities across the town and specifically within:

- Manor Park
- Chalvey
- Langley
- Kederminster

In addition, the council's community cohesion policy was presented at the People's Board in August and an action plan is being developed; work will be underway shortly to develop our community development strategy and culture strategy, which will further strengthen work in neighbourhoods.

Appendix 6 provides an example of the work previously carried out at Manor Park, which will help inform our future approach, where the key outcomes have been

- Strengthening community involvement and responsibility – resulting in residents taking part consistently in a wide range of community organised provision
- Collaborative working so that the improvements to the park and community centres have been undertaken in line with community needs
- Great feedback from the community about collaborative approach

## **6. Comments of Other Committees**

The progress of the Five Year Plan (including Outcome 3) is regularly reported to Cabinet. This specific report has not been considered by any other Committee of Slough Borough Council.

## **7. Conclusion**

Good progress is being made on all of the 4 key actions agreed for delivery this year under Outcome 4 with much of the work being delivered as a priority within existing teams, services and resources. There are however, key areas that will require more engagement from businesses and our communities to ensure further positive progress and work to develop and build this engagement is underway.

8. **Appendices Attached**

1. Outcome 3 - Delivery Milestones and Performance Measures
2. Town Team – 30 day success
3. Town Team – 100 day priorities
4. Photographs of blooms resulting from bulb planting
5. Bulb Mix for Kederminster
6. Manor Park – Consultation

9. **Background Papers**

Slough Borough Council, Five Year Plan 2018 – 23