

**CABINET**

**COUNCILLOR ADRIAN NEWELL  
DEMOCRACY, STRATEGY & PARTNERSHIPS  
PORTFOLIO HOLDER  
REPORT No. ACE 2202**

**8<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2022**

**KEY DECISION: NO**

**DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2022-25  
AND UPDATE**

**SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATIONS:**

This report presents a draft Council Plan for 2022-25; given at **appendix A**. Refreshed and updated annually, the draft plan sets out the council's priorities and the steps it will take over the next three years that contribute towards achieving the council's longer-term vision set out in the document Your Future, Your Place – A vision for Aldershot and Farnborough 2030.

Cabinet is asked to –

- (i) Recommend approval of the three-year Council Plan (2022-25) to full Council.

**1. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Together with its partners, the council provides a strategic role and a wide range of services helping to place-shape its area and benefit the activities and lives of local businesses, residents and its community as a whole.
- 1.2 To help with the planning and delivery of this work the council prepares a number of key documents that help set the general direction and work activities of the council. Collectively, these documents help inform many of the decisions the council makes, how it allocates resources and how it sets service and staff objectives; helping the council to make sure it best serves its residents, businesses and the borough of Rushmoor as a whole. One of the key documents concerned is the Council Plan.
- 1.3 The intention of the Council Plan, is not to provide detail on all its activities, but to outline the council's priorities over the next three years and, in particular, the key strategic projects that will contribute to achieving the council's vision. This is set out in the document Your Future, Your Place – A vision for Aldershot and Farnborough 2030.
- 1.4 In short, the Council Plan provides a focus for the council's activities and services by setting out the short to medium-term steps needed to realise its longer-term vision and goals. The plan is underpinned by a number of individual service plans which include more detailed information on the activities and work of individual council services.

- 1.5 While covering a three-year period, the Council Plan is refreshed and updated annually. Following consultation and review, a revised Council Plan has been prepared for 2022-25. A copy is given at **appendix A**.
- 1.6 Cabinet is asked to review and approve the draft plan for approval by Council at its meeting on 24th February.

## **2. DETAILS OF THE PROPOSAL**

### **Format and structure**

- 2.1 As a refresh, the draft plan largely follows the structure and format of previous plans. However, in line with consultation feedback (see below), the following changes have been included -
- (a) **Welcome and introduction** - A revised introduction is given that helps provide some narrative and context to proposed council activities in the plan.
  - (b) **Other strategies, plans, projects and programmes** - Some commentary and a diagram is provided to explain where the Council Plan sits, and how it and other strategies, plans and programmes relate and fit together.
  - (c) **Workforce and the way we work** - This section has been given greater emphasis and reframed with additional content covering the modernisation and transformation of the Council's workforce, community engagement and the council's organisational values. This section also includes the Council's commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030.
  - (d) **Community engagement** - A new section is included in the draft plan to outline how the Council takes account of community needs and views. This will be developed further through a communications plan linked to the delivery of the Council Plan.
  - (e) **Delivering & Measuring the plan** – To help bring the plan to life, the draft plan also includes a new section showing examples of what the council has said and done in previous plans.

### **Key priorities and activities**

- 2.2 As with previous plans, the key priorities and activities are provided in summary format under the key themes of People and Place.
- 2.3 The council's priorities have been reframed and follow those outlined in the council's vision document Your Future, Your Place 2030. This provides for some consistency and a 'golden thread' that helps bind the council's key documents, strategies and plans together.
- 2.4 The key activities outlined in the plan include –

## **People**

- Roll out the second phase of the Council's weekly food waste recycling service to households with shared bins
- Help people (especially young people) into employment through training, apprenticeships and upskilling
- Develop a walking and cycling plan to encourage sustainable travel and to support town centre regeneration plans
- Develop a new leisure centre in Farnborough
- Encourage more residents to be active and have healthier lifestyles
- Support apprenticeships, research and innovation opportunities through the Aerospace Research and Innovation Centre (ARIC)

## **Place**

- Complete the Union Yard development and support the regeneration of the Galleries in Aldershot
- Progress the regeneration of Farnborough town centre, including the civic quarter
- Develop Southwood Country Park, including providing a new visitor centre and improving its access, environment and facilities
- Support the creation of quality, new homes
- Update the facilities at Aldershot crematorium
- Progress an aerospace heritage project

## **Performance monitoring arrangements**

- 2.5 The draft plan also outlines the performance monitoring arrangements to be used in delivery of the plan. While the draft plan includes a number of measures applicable to the priorities and planned activities, it also outlines how it will be monitored through quarterly monitoring and annual reports and identifies the bodies that will scrutinise them.

The measures used have been developed in consultation with the Policy & Projects Advisory Board who were specifically asked to consider the performance monitoring and reporting measures appropriate to the priorities and activities referenced in the plan.

### **3. CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS**

- 3.1 The draft Council Plan has been prepared following a programme of events, including a call for evidence, service workshops and engagement with Heads of Service and their teams, elected members, partners and residents; the latter in the form of the resident's survey in summer 2021.

#### **Head of Service Workshops and call for evidence**

- 3.2 Development of the plan included a call for evidence and the holding a series of workshops with Heads of Service, Executive Managers and their teams during October / November 2021. The workshops were held to help identify any necessary structural changes and the most significant issues likely to impact the council in the next three-year period and provided an opportunity to identify potential activities for inclusion in the plan.

#### **Policy & Projects Advisory Board (PPAB)**

- 3.3 Development and progress of the plan has been regularly reported to and discussed by the Policy & Projects Advisory Board (PPAB).
- 3.4 At their meeting on 26 January 2022, PPAB considered the draft of the Council Plan. There was broad support for the Council Plan, recognising the challenges of distilling considerable amounts of input into a relatively short and high-level document. In particular, the following points were made:
- 3.4.1 That there are clear linkages between the Council Plan and the emerging Strategic Economic Framework and that once available, the priorities and actions from the Strategic Economic Framework should be captured within the Council planning and performance management process. There was particular interest from some PPAB members that support for key sectors (for example creative and digital) and SME investment are considered.
  - 3.4.2 That the statements in the draft Council Plan are high level and refer to the Council 'supporting the creation of new, quality homes'. There were a range of views from PPAB about where the priorities should lie within this activity (whether that be affordable housing or private sector rental via Rushmoor Homes). It was noted that the performance management approach would see both being measured under this plan and that further levels of detail sit within different plans and strategies (for example, the Local Plan and the emerging Housing and Homelessness Strategy).
  - 3.4.3 The new section of the Council Plan around community engagement was welcomed with PPAB members keen to know more about the actions that will be taken as a result of this, particularly around the engagement of young people and the equality, diversity and inclusivity agenda.
  - 3.4.4 PPAB commented that whilst the rationale for having climate change and financial sustainability as cross-cutting themes that run across the Council

Plan, there was a risk that they receive less focus as a result. Officers advised that this could be addressed in the performance management approach which is used to monitor delivery of the plan.

- 3.4.5 PPAB also highlighted the risk of performance measures giving too narrow a perspective on complex issues and sought reassurance that this would not be the case. For example, whilst increased recycling rates can be viewed as a positive, a measure of success would also be reducing food waste in the first place. Officers were able to give reassurance that issues such as this are under consideration. PPAB members also sought reassurance that projects in the Council Plan 2021 – 2024 would continue to be monitored to ensure their successful delivery and it was confirmed that this would be the case.

## **4. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Risks**

- 4.1 While the draft plan sets out an ambitious programme of key activities, many of these are ongoing or pre-planned projects that have been costed and/or are subject to project and performance management arrangements. The key activities are also subject to a range of suggested measures that will form the basis for future monitoring in delivery of the plan as part of the council's performance monitoring arrangements.

### **Legal implications**

- 4.2 Whilst there may be legal implications associated with some of the individual activities outlined in the plan, these are subject to their own project and risk management arrangements as outlined above. Beyond this, the draft plan merely sets out the ambitions and aspirations of the council and, as such, there are no specific legal implications applicable to the preparation and/or approval of the plan.

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 4.3 The draft plan has been prepared in the context of the council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy. Any projects identified in the Council Plan will be subject to Business Case development and approval if not included in the current budget.

### **Equalities Impact Implications**

- 4.4 The draft plan outlines a number of high-level activities intended to make a real positive and tangible difference to both the area, businesses and residents of Rushmoor. As individual projects, key activities will be subject to their own equality impact assessment and measures where appropriate. It is considered that there are no direct implications associated with the preparation and/or approval of the plan.

## **5. CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 The refreshed plan reflects the ambitions set out in 'Your Vision, Your Place – A Vision for Farnborough and Aldershot' and identifies key projects to be delivered over the next three years. The Cabinet is asked to recommend approval of the three-year Council Plan (2022-25) to full Council.
  - 5.2 The revised draft plan is subject to design work which will be undertaken following the Cabinet meeting.
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### **BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

None

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### **APPENDICES:**

**Appendix A** – DRAFT (text only version) Council Plan 2022-25 (subject to design)

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## Welcome

This Council Plan sets out the role that we will play in ensuring that Rushmoor is a vibrant, thriving place, with a strong community that has both the opportunities and sense of pride to make sure it is a fantastic place to live, work and do business. This is our vision - one we set out in more detail in our vision document - [Your Future, Your Place – A vision for Aldershot and Farnborough 2030](#).

It is with this vision in mind that we set out our priority projects for the next three years. These projects come together in an ambitious programme of activity across our two business plan themes – people and place.

Building on the foundations of previous plans and projects already delivered by the Council, our work in the coming years will prioritise supporting our communities through this time of change and transition, shaping our town centres for the future and making sure we deliver great value, high quality services.

Please take the time to read this ambitious plan that will make a real difference to our people and places and ensure we maintain the quality of life we value in Rushmoor. You can check our progress against our plan at [link].

We look forward to delivering for you.

Councillor David Clifford  
Leader – Rushmoor Borough Council

Paul Shackley  
Chief Executive – Rushmoor Borough Council

## About the Council Plan

The council provides a wide range of services, many of which are a part of normal day-to-day life and business activity. However, the intention of the Council Plan, is not to provide detail on all our activities, but to outline the council’s priorities over the next three years and, in particular, the key strategic projects that will contribute to achieving our vision. This is set out in our vision document Your Future, Your Place – A vision for Aldershot and Farnborough 2030.

Refreshed and updated annually, the Council Plan provides a focus for our activities and services by setting out the short to medium-term steps needed to realise our longer-term vision and aspirations. While it sets out an ambitious programme of key activities, underpinning this plan are a number of individual service plans which include more detailed information on the activities and work of individual council departments, teams and the day-to-day services they offer.

[Diagram to show how all this fits together – draft proposal below]



The Council Plan also draws upon and provides a link between a number of important strategic documents which inform and underpin much of the work we do. These include:

**Medium Term Financial Strategy** – This sets out how we will plan and manage our budgets in the medium term to make sure we continue to be financially sound

**The Rushmoor Local Plan** – This will help shape the development of Aldershot and Farnborough up to 2032 through our planning policies

**Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan** - This sets out how we will help tackle the impacts of climate change, make the council carbon neutral and make our borough more sustainable by 2030

**Supporting Communities Strategy and Action Plan** – This sets out the council’s approach to tackling inequality and deprivation, increasing social connections and improving the well-being, strength and resilience of our community



**Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan** – This sets out the steps that the council will take to promote equality, diversity and inclusion

**Customer and Digital Strategy** – This outlines how we will do things better and more efficiently by designing our services around our customers' experience, enabled by digital technologies where appropriate

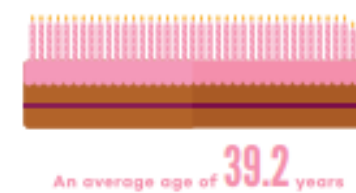
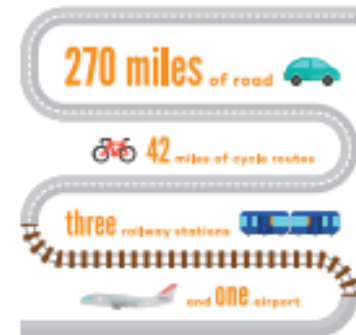
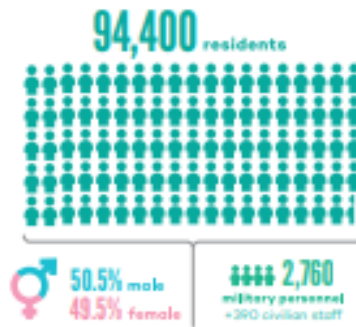
**Procurement Strategy** – This sets out how we will procure goods, works and services and make sure we secure best value for money and socio-economic benefits when we do so

**The People Strategy** – This sets out how we will develop our employees, core values and culture so we offer the best experience for our customers

**Service plans and staff objectives** – These identify what our different teams will be doing to support our customers and the council's priorities

We use these plans and documents to help set the general direction and work activities of the council. They inform many of the decisions we make, how we allocate resources across the council together with our staff objectives. Collectively, these documents help us to make sure we serve our residents, businesses and the borough of Rushmoor as a whole.

# Rushmoor in numbers



[www.rushmoor.gov.uk](http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk)

## **Looking ahead – challenges and opportunities**

In developing this Council Plan, it has been important to consider the strategic challenges and opportunities that we will face over the lifetime of the plan and beyond. Understanding these challenges and making plans for how the council might address them will help us to make sure our services are fit for the future and able to deliver our aspirations.

### **Responding to the climate emergency**

Responding to the climate emergency will be increasingly significant for us all. Our Climate Change Action Plan sets out a series of local actions to make the council carbon neutral, and Aldershot and Farnborough greener and more sustainable by 2030. While we will be updating our Climate Change Action Plan in the light of COP26, mitigating, and adapting to climate change is an opportunity to work with our residents and partners to build a more sustainable future.

### **Maintaining financial resilience in an uncertain environment**

Managing the financial impact of the coronavirus pandemic and making sure the council continues to be financially sound will be a key focus over the life of this plan. There has been growing demand for some of our services and more pressure on our income because of uncertainty caused by the pandemic and changes in government regulations and restrictions. Therefore, we may have to be flexible and make difficult decisions in terms of affordability in the short to medium-term as we prioritise certain services and move to more efficient delivery models, while at the same time realising our long-term ambition to invest in the future of our people and town centres.

### **Engagement and inclusion**

Our community has become more diverse and continues to evolve, and we will need to consider ways to make sure everyone feels included. Over the past couple of years, we have seen significant improvement in community engagement, as the response to the pandemic provided an opportunity to work with the voluntary sector and other partners, and we will seek to build on this success. Social media provides new opportunities for us to improve how we communicate and engage online with residents and partners and self-service models of delivery are increasingly more commonplace. However, as we offer more of our services online, the challenge of digital exclusion and how to support those who do not have the right skills or access to the internet to use these services remains a key concern for us. In the meanwhile, we need to continue to provide information and key services in alternative, accessible formats.

### **A strong local economy – kind to the environment**

There will be fundamental changes to shopping and our town centres because of the coronavirus pandemic. Keeping our key businesses and attracting new ones through investment to support growth remains a priority. It is also important to support residents who have lost their jobs because of the pandemic and help them back into employment, education or training. Through this work there is an opportunity to reflect on the future skills that our community needs and support green jobs that benefit the community, the environment, and the economy.

### **Healthy lifestyles**

A growing number of people are struggling with the persistent effects of coronavirus and the pandemic, and it will be important to continue to support the physical and mental health of our

residents. It will be vital for the council to work with the health sector, community groups and not-for-profit sector to support health and wellbeing across Rushmoor.

### **Changes in government policy**

There is a significant future programme of legislative and government policy change which will have a direct impact on the council and our partners. These not only include day-to-day laws that govern things like the environment or planning rules but may also include widescale changes to local government finance arrangements, powers and structures through possible devolution and the government's 'levelling up' agenda.

# Our workforce and the way we work

In taking forward the actions set out in this plan, it is vital that we also consider our own workforce and the ways that we work.

In response to the pandemic and other challenges we face, the council has had to adapt to new, more effective ways of working and change the way in which we deliver our services. While sticking to our core values, we have transformed a wide range of services, at speed, and this will continue to be a commitment throughout the life of this plan.

We are committed to being a modern, customer-focused organisation that uses the opportunities that digital technology can offer to deliver accessible, efficient and cost-effective services where appropriate, at the same time making sure that no one is left behind.

Whether it is taking forward the work in this plan or in our day-to-day work activities, we will therefore:





- Work in **partnership** to deliver the best possible outcomes for our residents and businesses
- **Reduce our environmental impact** so that we can be a **carbon neutral** council by 2030, designing and delivering our services in a **green and sustainable** way
- Be **flexible** in how we use our resources to provide **value for money** and **affordable services** that use the right approach at the right price
- Be **agile** and responsive to deliver services at **pace**, using **digital, innovative** and **creative** tools and approaches where appropriate
- Apply our **organisational values** in how we work with each other, with our partners, businesses, residents and community to achieve our aims

## Our values and behaviours

Our values and behaviour frameworks support the council's aspirations and helps guide how we work with each other, with our partners, businesses, residents and community to achieve our aims.

# YOUR FUTURE, YOUR PLACE OUR VISION FOR RUSHMOOR

## OUR VALUES AND BEHAVIOURS... how we work day-to-day

 <p><b>COLLABORATE</b></p> <p><b>We achieve excellence by working together</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We involve the right people, at the right time and work together with enthusiasm</li><li>• We recognise and appreciate the contribution of others</li><li>• We help each other to bounce back from setbacks and persevere to reach our goals</li><li>• We work openly, and share our knowledge, expertise and plans</li><li>• We celebrate success and focus on positives</li></ul>	 <p><b>INNOVATE</b></p> <p><b>We are always thinking of new and better ways to make a difference</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We look for creative ways to drive improvement</li><li>• By taking responsibility for our own learning and development, we will explore new ideas and ways of working</li><li>• We will not just do what we did before, we seek to innovate</li><li>• We encourage each other and develop the shared vision and purpose</li><li>• We look outside our organisation for ideas, inspiration and new ways of thinking</li></ul>	 <p><b>BRAVE</b></p> <p><b>We are ambitious for Rushmoor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We are willing to make bold decisions to make a difference to our community</li><li>• We have the courage to do things differently and 'give it a go'</li><li>• We take managed risks and view mistakes as opportunities to learn</li><li>• We will get things done quickly and efficiently</li><li>• We provide, seek and act on constructive feedback</li></ul>	 <p><b>INTEGRITY</b></p> <p><b>We uphold high standards of service through honesty, respect and compassion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We put customers at the heart of what we do</li><li>• We take pride in being open and transparent</li><li>• We are personally accountable for our decisions and action and do what we say we will do, on time</li><li>• We respect and value difference, and listen to other perspectives</li><li>• We work to understand how others feel and how we can respond appropriately</li></ul>
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## Community engagement - assessing and understanding needs

In establishing the priorities and activities set out in this plan, it is also important to us to consider how we engage with, and meet the needs of, our residents, businesses and our community. This helps us prioritise and understand better their needs so we can target our activities and services to the right people, in the right way at the right time.

We use a number of tools and approaches to help us with this work including use of local knowledge, strategic assessments, data analysis tools that provide insight into our customers' preferences and needs, public consultations, focus groups and surveys.

We also use a wide range of communications activities to reach our communities to help make sure they are aware our services and how they can give their views on them. These range from the council's Arena magazine and local communications to digital communications, such a social media and email newsletters.

Working closely with our partners where appropriate, we want to develop how we communicate and engage with our community to help us continue to meet our businesses and residents' needs with quality, timely and effective services.

## **Our priorities**

We are an ambitious council, and this plan sets out our aspirations against two key areas of work – People and Place.

**People** – empowering and connecting communities and enabling people to live healthy and sustainable lives to fulfil their aspirations.

**Place** – ensuring our towns are family-friendly, safe, vibrant, and sustainable places - now and in the future.



# People

## Priorities



## Key activities

Over the next three years, we will:

1. Roll out the second phase of our weekly food waste recycling service to households with shared bins
2. Help people (especially young people) into employment through training, apprenticeships and upskilling
3. Develop a walking and cycling plan to encourage sustainable travel and to support our town centre regeneration plans
4. Develop a new leisure centre in Farnborough
5. Encourage more residents to be active and have healthier lifestyles
6. Support apprenticeships, research and innovation opportunities through the Aerospace Research and Innovation Centre (ARIC)

## Supporting strategies and plans

(To be developed, reviewed and/or implemented)

1. Supporting Communities Strategy
2. Joint Municipal Waste Strategy
3. Car Parking Strategy
4. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan
5. Communications and Engagement Strategy

## Key Measures

- Increase in the % of waste collected by the Council that is reused, recycled and composted
- Decrease in % of working age population claiming benefits because of unemployment
- Decrease in % of 18-24 year olds claiming benefits because of unemployment
- Increase in % of physically active adults

# Place

## Priorities



## Key activities

Over the next three years, we will:

1. Complete the Union Yard development and support the regeneration of the Galleries in Aldershot
2. Progress the regeneration of Farnborough town centre, including the civic quarter
3. Develop Southwood Country Park, including providing a new visitor centre and improving its access, environment and facilities
4. Support the creation of quality, new homes
5. Update the facilities at Aldershot crematorium
6. Progress an aerospace heritage project

## Supporting strategies and plans

(To be developed, reviewed and/or implemented)

1. Strategic Economic Framework
2. Town Centre Strategy and Business Support Plan
3. Industrial Strategy
4. Cultural Strategy
5. Car parking Strategy
6. Housing and Homelessness Strategy
7. Climate Change Action Plan
8. The Local Plan
9. Green Infrastructure Strategy

## Key Measures

- Increase in residents' satisfaction with our town centres
- Decrease in the % of vacant and dormant premises in our town centres
- Increase in the number of new homes created by Rushmoor Homes
- Increase in the number of affordable homes delivered across the borough

## **Strong community, proud of our area**

We know that if people feel connected to each other and the place where they live, they are generally happier and more likely to be active in their local community and to do things like volunteering and shopping locally. For these reasons, we want to foster a strong community spirit and a sense of pride in our area by bringing people together, connecting our communities and enabling people to get involved so they can help and support one another. One of the main ways we will do this is through delivery of our Supporting Communities Strategy and Action Plan.

Among many activities, we will work with schools and colleges to engage young people in local projects. We will also support local apprenticeships and volunteering opportunities and develop a youth forum, run by young people, to give them a voice and encourage them to engage with decision-makers on local issues. We will, of course, also be supporting our local community and groups to get involved in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

## **Healthy and green lifestyles**

Climate change is one of the key challenges we all face. Having already declared a climate emergency and established a climate change action plan to help address the challenges and opportunities presented, we will continue to work with businesses, organisations and our community towards making the council carbon neutral, and Aldershot and Farnborough greener and more sustainable by 2030.

We will review our Climate Change Action Plan in light of COP26, seek to protect and develop our green infrastructure and improve the corridors and network of green spaces in our area so that we maintain a wide range of environmental and quality-of-life benefits for our local community.

As food waste is a big contributor to climate change, we will also continue to extend our weekly food waste collections to households with shared bins. Instead of food waste being incinerated with non-recycling rubbish, it is broken down naturally to produce renewable energy and natural fertiliser, which in turn reduces the need for artificial fertilisers. We will also encourage households to make best use of the food they buy so overall, less food is wasted.

We will also work with Hampshire County Council to develop a walking and cycling plan to encourage people to use their cars less and which will support our town centre regeneration plans.

Helping people to adopt healthier lifestyles will be important, particularly as we know some health inequalities have got worse because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The council will follow through on its promise to establish a new leisure offer in Farnborough including a replacement for the Farnborough Leisure Centre.

In addition, we will promote wider health and wellbeing by looking to develop the cultural offer across Rushmoor, increasing engagement in the arts and leisure through the development and implementation of a new Cultural Strategy with our partners. Alongside this, we will develop new facilities and a visitor centre at the Southwood Country Park and work to deliver an attraction / project that celebrates our area's aerospace heritage.

## **Housing for every stage of life**

Having a good quality home is essential for the health and wellbeing of many of our residents. Making sure there is a range of housing types, from starter homes, family and executive homes to supported housing, is important for individuals and families. Building strong neighbourhoods and inclusive communities helps to make people feel safe and supports the economic prosperity of the area.

Recognising these benefits, we have already enabled the development of many new homes at Wellesley, Aldershot and will support the creation of more quality homes through Rushmoor Homes (our partner housing company) as part of our town centre regeneration plans. We will also be reviewing our Local Plan and Housing and Homelessness Strategy to help refine and shape our planning policies and future sustainable developments.

### **Vibrant and distinctive town centres**

Working with partners, we will transform and revitalise our town centre spaces in Aldershot and Farnborough through our ambitious redevelopment and regeneration programmes. This will help attract other developers and create significant investment in Aldershot and Farnborough town centres, making vibrant and thriving places where people want to spend their time and money, from daytime through to the evening. Our residents want more modern and sustainable town centres, with a wider range of shops, cafes and restaurants, new community facilities and mixed tenure homes for people of all ages.

Projects under way and in development include Union Yard and The Galleries in Aldershot and the Civic Quarter in Farnborough.

### **A thriving local economy – kind to the environment**

In addition to our town centre regeneration plans and improved cultural offer across Rushmoor, with the business benefits and opportunities these will bring, we will support local business investment and resilience through the development of a strategic economic framework for the area that will help businesses survive, grow and prosper in a sustainable way.

Based on detailed research and engagement with businesses, we will also develop plans to grow the borough's key economic sectors and develop a business support programme which will help local businesses recover from the pandemic and make sure that in the long term we have the right mix of business premises, assets and skills in our area to respond to changing economic needs and boost growth.

### **Opportunities for everyone – quality education and a skilled workforce**

In support of our economic plans and to help local businesses and residents we will also work to equip people with the education and skills they need to enter, re-skill and progress in the labour market and meet the demands of the local economy so that our area is a place of innovation and inclusion. Specifically, we will help people (especially young people) into employment through training, apprenticeships and upskilling and help foster research and innovation opportunities through our heritage and links with the Aerospace Research and Innovation Centre (ARIC).

## **Delivering and measuring this plan**

Each quarter, our Corporate Management Team and Cabinet monitor the progress of the key projects in this plan through a series of monitoring reports. Our Overview and Scrutiny Committee is then able to review progress against the plan.

Collectively, we monitor our progress of each project against a number of agreed measures – some of which are shown with our list of priorities above – and adjust the resources allocated to each project depending on need, progress and risk.

As well as the projects in the Council Plan, teams across the council make sure that we continue to provide high quality services to our residents. These activities are contained in service plans, which the relevant Head of Service and Cabinet member manage and monitor regularly.

At the end of the financial year, the council also produces an Annual Report, summarising key areas of work and the progress against the Council Plan.

Using this performance management approach, the council seeks to achieve and deliver its goals and aspirations. Some examples of our successes are given below.

## **We said, we did ...**

### **Union Yard regeneration**

In our 2021-24 plan we said that we would focus on the Union Yard regeneration scheme in Aldershot town centre.

With all the land acquired and planning consent in place, the site is now cleared, and construction work has started to build 100 new homes, 128 student units and flexible retail, commercial and community space in the heart of Aldershot town centre. The £40 million-plus regeneration scheme will also provide improved public space, car and cycle parking, and is due to be completed in spring 2024.

### **Food waste recycling**

In our 2021-24 plan, we said that we would introduce food waste collections to help residents increase the amount they can recycle and to reduce waste.

We have successfully rolled out weekly food waste recycling collections to most households in Aldershot and Farnborough, with the second phase of the scheme for homes with shared bins due to begin from spring 2022. Instead of being incinerated with non-recycled household rubbish, the food waste is broken down by anaerobic digestion to produce renewable energy and natural soil fertiliser. In the first 11 weeks of the new service, we collected 720 tonnes of food waste, enough to power 77 homes for one year. Over a full year, this would work out to generating enough power for 364 homes.

### **Food hubs**

In our 2021-24 plan we said that we would enable the development of food partnerships and food hubs across Aldershot and Farnborough in support of our communities.

Working with our partners, we established the first in a network of accessible food larders at Park Church, Aldershot. The larder is for the whole community allowing people to donate small amounts of food and where people who need food can easily access it at any time without the need for a referral or to wait for the foodbank to open. This provides both an outlet for people to help their community and a way to receive that help which is non-judgemental and fair.

We also saw the community store open in Windsor Way, Aldershot as part of the wider Grub Hub food project.

### **Leisure and community facilities**

We said in our 2021-24 plan that we would maintain and develop excellent leisure and community facilities in our area.

During 2021 we invested around £100,000 in the Aldershot Lido to enable this much-loved facility to open safely again after losing the previous summer season because of Covid restrictions. We were delighted to welcome 28,167 visitors to the Lido during the summer.

Despite the continuing concerns with Covid, the Princes Hall theatre in Aldershot was also able to reopen and provide a full autumn season events programme, including 40 performances of its Christmas pantomime, 'Dick Whittington', which welcomed almost 16,000 visitors.

### **Heritage trails**

In the 2019-22 Business Plan, we said that we would build on our heritage to help support the health and wellbeing of residents by developing a number of community heritage trails.

Working with our partners we have established six heritage trails covering the civilian and military areas in and around Aldershot. Supported by an interactive app, with maps and information, the heritage trails offer different length walks where you can learn about the history of Aldershot through the stories of people, places, events and buildings throughout the town.

## **Getting involved**

If you have comments or would like to get involved in identifying our priorities and activities, please contact [\[Link\]](#)