

## **COVID Recovery and Renewal Strategy: six months' progress report**

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### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide District Executive with a six months' progress report regarding delivery of the Recovery and Renewal Strategy.

### **Forward Plan**

2. This report appeared on the District Executive Forward Plan with an anticipated Committee date of 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021.

### **Public Interest**

3. South Somerset District Council (SSDC) produced a Recovery and Renewal Strategy that was approved by District Executive on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, which set the next steps in rebuilding from the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID19). It contained the recovery and renewal vision and ambition objectives based on eleven steps, covering the environment, economy, community, places and protecting core services. It is important that we provide information on the extent to which we are delivering the priorities identified to provide assurance that we are on track and can receive any recommendations about possible improvements.

### **Recommendations**

4. That District Executive recommend that the Chief Executive:
  - a) Notes the good delivery progress made within the first six months' (Appendix 1)
  - b) Agree that rather than establishing a new Recovery Board that Members and Officers continue to have representation on the groups identified (in Appendix 2) and co-ordinate to ensure alignment with SSDC's Recovery and Renewal Strategy delivery.

### **Background**

5. The SSDC Recovery and Renewal Strategy contains eleven key objectives. Each of these has been adopted by one of SSDC's Communities of Practice (CoPs), as set out in Appendix 4 of the Recovery and Renewal Strategy for:



- Economy
  - Healthy, self-reliant communities
  - Environment
  - Places where we live
  - Protecting core services
6. The Strategy also refers to the partnership approach to delivery through a South Somerset Recovery and Renewal Board. When the strategy was adopted, it was anticipated that this would be established with membership including the most relevant Council Portfolio Holders and appropriate Council senior officers including the Director of Place and Recovery. Additional Board members invitations from external stakeholders would include other local authorities, substantial businesses, health and care bodies, leading educational providers, charities and other public expert agencies. This Board would oversee and review progress of the Strategy on behalf of the District Executive.

## Report Detail

7. The attached summary table (included within Appendix 1) demonstrates that good progress is being made with ten of the eleven step objectives on target (green RAG rating) and planned activity to stay on target in the next quarter. Only one area is currently behind (red RAG rating) and a plan is in place to improve that situation (amber RAG status) over the next quarter.
8. The Recovery Board was intended to bring key South Somerset stakeholders together to deliver a collaborative approach to recovery and renewal within the District. However, upon review, the need for a formal Board has been replaced by SSDC's involvement in existing partnerships, which are already aligned to the eleven step objectives. The attached table in Appendix 2 summarises the existing groups already operating and their relevance to the recovery objectives.
9. Due to involvement within the various groups outlined in Appendix 2 it is recommended that members and officers continue to have representation on the groups identified and co-ordinate to ensure alignment with SSDC's Recovery and Renewal plans. This is instead of creating a new Board that would run the risk of duplicating existing activity and partnership working.

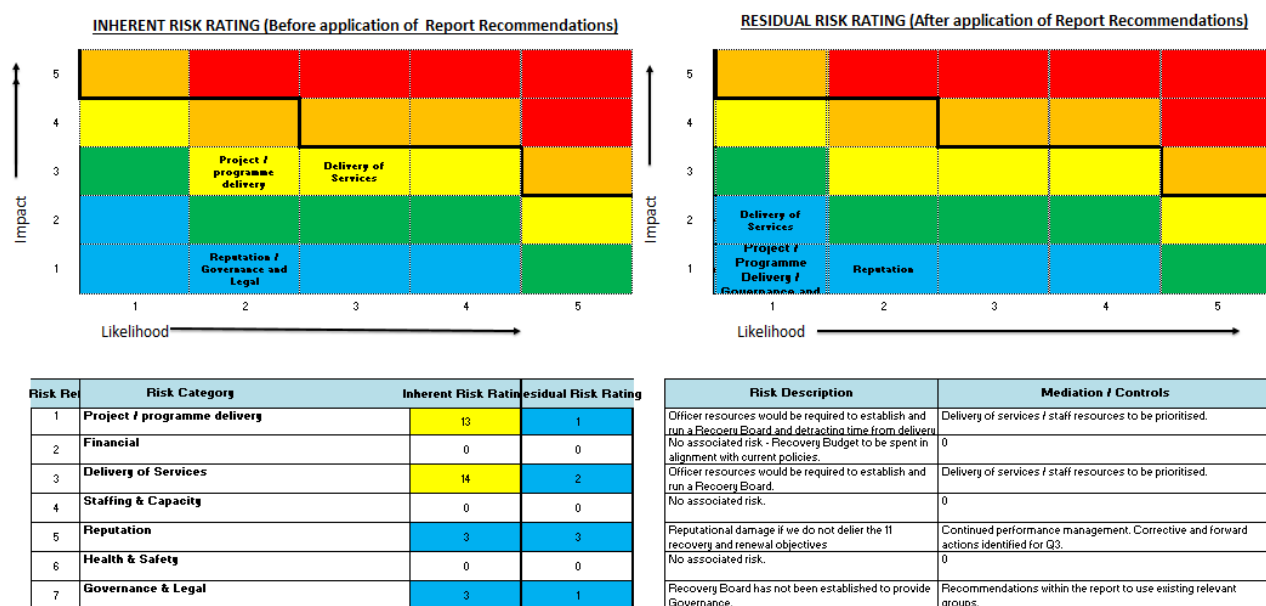
## Financial Implications

10. A Recovery budget of £464,140 from reserves was approved by District Executive on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. A spending action plan, including authorisation governance, is being worked up for approval by SLT. Any spend will be reported to District Executive with the next Recovery and Renewal Progress Update.

## Legal implications and details of Statutory Powers

11. There are no legal implications that relate directly to this report.

## Risk Matrix



## Council Plan Implications

12. The Recovery and Renewal Plan aligns with the Council Plan, Annual Action Plan 2021/22.

## Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

13. Step 1 of the Recovery and Renewal Plan objectives is to Promote Decarbonisation and Nature Recovery and this is being delivered.

## Equality and Diversity Implications

14. The equality impact assessment submitted with the Strategy for District Executive on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 is still relevant.

## Privacy Impact Assessment

15. There are no material implications on personal privacy.

## Background Papers

16. The District Executive Report for the Recovery and Renewal Strategy, including the Strategy itself plus Equality Impact and minutes are available at <https://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=136&MId=2856>

## Appendices

- Appendix 1: Recovery and Renewal Strategy: six months' progress summary
- Appendix 2: Summary of key recovery related groups with objectives