The development of the council’s Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) have been aligned to cover the next five years (2019-2024). A business planning paper was taken to ARG Committee on 27 November 2019, which set out these documents in draft, alongside the priorities for this Committee over the next five years (Appendix A). This includes corporate priorities that the Committee is responsible for, as well as Committee specific priorities.

This paper sets out an annual Delivery Plan for 2019/20 which shows specific actions for how the priorities for this Committee will be delivered over the next year, and how progress and performance will be measured. It also identifies any risks to delivery. The plan will be refreshed on an annual basis. The committee will receive a performance report each quarter updating on progress, performance and risk against the priorities.

A final Corporate Plan and MTFS for 2019-2024 was agreed by Full Council on 5th March.
2019 for approval.

Officers Recommendations

1. That the Committee approve the Delivery Plan 2019/20 as set out in Appendix B.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

1.1 This report is required as part of the business planning process in order for the Committee to discuss and approve the annual Delivery Plan for 2019/20.

2. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

2.1 Like all councils, Barnet is facing an increasingly difficult financial challenge with demand for services increasing and funding from central government decreasing, with an uncertainty around what future funding will look like. Therefore, the council must now make decisions to prioritise its limited resources effectively and develop plans for the next five years to deliver both statutory duties and ambitions for Barnet within these financial constraints.

2.2 To ensure the council has a plan that reflects local priorities, as well as a financial strategy that will support a financially sustainable position, the development of the Corporate Plan and MTFS have been aligned to cover the next five years (2019-2024). This will help to ensure there is a medium-term plan in place of how limited resources will be allocated in line with what we want to achieve for the borough.

2.3 The Corporate Plan, known as Barnet 2024, has been refreshed to reflect the priorities of the new administration who were elected in May 2018, and resident feedback on what matters. Feedback has been captured through public consultation and engagement that took place over the summer of 2018. The Corporate Plan sets the strategic direction of the council, including outcomes for the borough, the priorities we will focus limited resources on, and how we will approach delivery.

2.4 The three outcomes for the borough, as set out in the Corporate Plan, focus on place, people and communities:

- A pleasant, well maintained borough that we protect and invest in
- Our residents live happy, healthy, independent lives with the most vulnerable protected
- Safe and strong communities where people get along well

2.5 To support delivery of these outcomes, ARG Committee will be responsible for delivering any corporate priorities that fall within its remit, as well as any additional priorities that relate to matters the Committee is responsible for under its Terms of Reference. These were approved by ARG Committee on 27 November 2018 and can be seen in Appendix A.
2.6 These priorities will inform an annual Delivery Plan which sets out the key activities, performance indicators/targets and risks in relation to delivery of the corporate and committee priorities. Delivery Plans will be refreshed on an annual basis. The committee will receive a performance report each quarter updating on progress, performance and risk against the priorities.

2.7 The draft Delivery Plan for 2019/20 can be seen in Appendix B for approval by the Committee.

3. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 A key element of effective strategic and financial management is for the council to have comprehensive business plans in place that ensure there is a clear strategy for addressing future challenges, particularly in the context of continuing budget and demand pressures, delivering local priorities and allocating resources effectively.

4. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

4.1 The alternative option is to not have long-term plans in place which could expose the council to significant risks. In addition, the absence of a Delivery Plan would make it difficult for progress against our outcomes to be measured.

5. **POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

5.1 The priorities for this Committee will be delivered in accordance with the Delivery Plan 2019/20 set out in Appendix B.

5.2 The Delivery Plan will be refreshed on an annual basis. The committee will receive a performance report each quarter updating on progress, performance and risk against the priorities.

6. **IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

6.1 **Corporate Priorities and Performance**

6.1.1 The council’s Corporate Plan, which sets out the outcomes, priorities and strategic approach, has been refreshed for 2019 to 2024. The Delivery Plan set out in this report supports delivery of the Corporate Plan and includes performance indicators/targets to monitor progress.

6.2 **Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

6.2.1 The Delivery Plan 2019/20 for ARG Committee supports the savings programme that was approved by P&R Committee on 11th December 2018. This will enable the council to meet its savings target as set out in the MTFS.

6.3 **Social Value**

6.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental
benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders.

6.4 Legal and Constitutional References

6.4.1 The council’s Constitution (Article 7, Article 7 – Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships) sets out the responsibilities of all Committees. ARG Committee is responsible for:

- Regeneration strategy and oversight of major regeneration schemes, asset management, employment strategy, business support and engagement.
- Receiving reports on relevant performance information and risk on the services under the remit of the Committee.

6.5 Risk Management

6.5.1 The council has an established approach to risk management, which is set out in the Risk Management Framework. Risks will be reviewed quarterly (as a minimum) and any high-level risks will be reported to the relevant Theme Committee and Policy and Resources Committee.

6.5.2 An integral part of the Delivery Plan (Appendix B) is the identification of any risks to delivering the corporate or committee priorities and key activities.

6.6 Equalities and Diversity

6.6.1 Equality and diversity issues are a mandatory consideration in the decision-making of the council. The Equality Act 2010 and the Public-Sector Equality Duty, requires elected Members to satisfy themselves that equality considerations are integrated into day-to-day business and that all proposals emerging from the business planning process have taken into consideration the impact, if any, on any protected group and what mitigating factors can be put in place.

6.6.2 This is set out in the council’s Equalities Policy together with our strategic Equalities Objective - as set out in the Corporate Plan - that citizens will be treated equally with understanding and respect; have equal opportunities and receive quality services provided to best value principles.

6.7 Corporate Parenting

6.7.1 In line with Children and Social Work Act 2017, the council has a duty to consider Corporate Parenting Principles in decision-making across the council. The outcomes and priorities in the refreshed Corporate Plan reflect the council’s commitment to the Corporate Parenting duty to ensure the most vulnerable are protected and the needs of children are considered in everything that the council does.

6.8 Consultation and Engagement
6.8.1 Public consultation and engagement on the Corporate Plan took place between 16 July 2018 and 23 September 2018. The findings from this have been considered and incorporated into the document.


6.9 Insight

6.9.1 Not applicable.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 ARG Business Planning – 2019 to 2024