

COUNCIL

9 September 2019

RCC ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

Report of the Chief Executive

Strategic Aim:	All	
Key Decision: No	Forward Plan Reference: FP/070619	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Councillor Hemsley Leader and Portfolio Holder for Rutland One Public Estate & Growth, Tourism & Economic Development, Resources (other than Finance)	
Contact Officer(s):	Helen Briggs, Chief Executive	email: hbriggs@rutland.gov.uk
	Holly Bremner, Head of Communications	email: hbremner@rutland.gov.uk
Ward Councillors	All	

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council:

1. Endorses the RCC Annual Report 2018-19 (Appendix 1);

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To present the Rutland County Council Annual Report 2018/19 to Council and show how it will be used and distributed to highlight the impact the Council is making across the key service areas. The report also updates Council on the impact of the 2017/18 report and gives an introduction to the high level 2019/2024 Corporate Plan.

2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 Last year Rutland County Council published its first annual report in the new style. Although performance data has always been published, this was the first time it was published in this very different format.

- 2.2 The aim of the Annual Report is to support tax payers in understanding better how their money is spent and the impact it is having.

3 IMPACT OF THE ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

- 3.1 The 2017/18 Annual Report was published through the Council's website and 250 hard copies distributed across Rutland's libraries and Council buildings. A dissemination plan supported the promotion of the data, which resulted in local media picking up stories on the Council's affordable home targets and children's social care.
- 3.2 The online version of the report was accessed 221 times by 186 unique visitors.
- 3.3 Council officers have received direct feedback from residents supporting the new format. With one resident requesting further details on statistics presented and commenting: *"I like the format of the report, which is clear and helpful. The contents are highly reassuring (particularly given the performance of other councils), and the spirit of the county comes through the document.*
- 3.4 Website statistics indicate little to no traffic for pages containing outturn data in previous years. The communications team has previously not received any media interest for the Council's performance figures.

4 THE 2018/19 ANNUAL REPORTS

- 4.1 The publication of the 2017/18 annual report achieved its objectives – to engage residents in Council performance data.
- 4.2 2018/19 performance data is therefore presented in a similar way.

The 2018/19 Annual Report (Appendix 1) features:

- An introduction from the Leader
- Information on 'how your money is spent'
- Highlights of the year
- Service sections, introduced by Portfolio Holders, (Adults, Health and Social Care, Children, Young People and Lifelong Learning, Highways, Transportation, Culture and Leisure, Environment, Finance, Planning and Property). Each service section provides a breakdown of key statistics for that service, presented in a dashboard, and 'good news' stories, relevant to each service area.
- A section looking forward to 2019/20 – this is an initial look at the new high level Corporate Plans for the period 2019 – 2024. This will be presented in full to Cabinet in September 2019. However, this report contains the high level which 'sets' the scene. It includes the new Council Vision, Priority Themes and our strategic aims. This is important at this stage as it allows us to develop for the full Corporate Plan – SMART objectives, Performance Indicators, Actions and ensure that resources are in place to deliver the proposed outcomes.

5 DISTRIBUTION

- 5.1 A small number of reports (250) will be printed and shared with all our Councillors, staff and partner organisations and placed in our Libraries and Customer Service areas. The report will be presented on the website through a digital turn page document reader (DDA compliant) and links to different content shared through social media, staff networks and syndicated through partner channels.
- 5.2 A press release will also be issued to local media outlining the content of the report.
- 5.3 An article will also be featured in the Council's digital publication Your Rutland and internally through 'One Council'.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Portfolio Holders and Chief Officers were consulted on the design and development of the report and provided content for each service area.
- 6.2 The draft Annual Report went to Cabinet on 20 August 2019 (report no.124/2019) and was recommended to Council for approval.
- 6.3 A proposed dissemination plan is attached at **Appendix 2** to this report.

7 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 7.1 The alternative is to continue to revert to the original mechanism for publishing Quarter 4 data. The success of the 2017/18 report highlights the negative impact this would have on tax payers in gaining understanding on how their money is spent.
- 7.2 To not produce any form of report would not be acceptable because of the transparency requirements placed upon the Council.

8 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The annual cost for producing the report will be met from the communications budget.

9 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from the report.

10 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has been completed. No adverse or other significant risks/issues were found. A copy of the DPIA can be obtained from Holly Bremner hbremner@rutland.gov.uk

11 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 11.1 DDA has been considered throughout the development and publication of the printed and e-document.
- 11.2 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) screening has been prepared and a full assessment is not required.

12 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 None relevant.

13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 None relevant.

13.2 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.3 In conclusion, it is recommended that Council endorses the Annual Report 2018/19 and the aspects of the 2019/2024 Corporate Plan (High Level) contained within this report.

14 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 14.1 There are no additional background papers to the report.

15 APPENDICES

- 15.1 Appendix 1 – RCC Annual Report 2018/19
- 15.2 Appendix 2 – Dissemination Plan
- 15.3 Appendix 3 - 2019/24 High Level Corporate Plan

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.