

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT TO CABINET

18TH MARCH 2010

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

COUNCIL DECISION

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL – Cllr Lupton

COUNCIL PLAN AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLANS 2010-2013

1. Summary

This report is to provide members with the draft Council Plan and abridged Service Improvement Plans for 2010-13. The Council Plan sets out Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's key priorities which are the council's contribution to the Borough's Sustainable Community Strategy.

The first part of the 2010-2013 Council Plan provides information about the Council and its work for the local community. The second part is an action plan setting out how we will achieve our priorities and how success and progress towards these priorities will be measured.

The Service Improvement Plans provide further detail on how the improvement priorities and objectives will be delivered and links priorities to resources.

Business Unit plans will provide the detail on other areas of the council's day to day work.

2. Recommendations

1. To note the current drafts of the Council Plan and Service Improvement Plans.
2. To recommend the draft Council Plan and Service Improvement Plans 2010-13 to Council.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

The Council Plan and Service Improvement Plans set out how the Council will improve its services and contribute to community objectives. The plans are based on the objectives and outcomes already set in the Sustainable Community Strategy and the targets within the Local Area Agreement but provide focus on the key objectives we need to achieve authority wide and which need to be monitored by Corporate Management Team and the Cabinet. The Council's constitution states that Council must approve the plans.

4. Members Interests

Members (including co-opted members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (paragraph 8) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (paragraph 10 of the code of conduct).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;
- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (**paragraph 12 of the Code**).

Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc; whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.

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SUMMARY

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Business Unit plans will provide the detail on other areas of the council's day to day work.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To note the current draft version of the Council Plan and Service Improvement Plans.
2. To recommend the draft Council Plan and Service Improvement Plans 2010 – 2013 to Council.

BACKGROUND

1. The Council Plan sets out how the Council will contribute to the community objectives set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 - 2021. It provides focus on the key council priorities we need to achieve and monitor regularly.
2. The principle underlying the development of the Council Plan is that it is a business plan for the organisation, focusing on the key council priorities. This approach is vital to ensure a clear focus on our key priorities. The focus of the plan shifts each year as our key priorities alter over time in recognition of change. It is a three year rolling plan which is updated on an annual basis.
3. Service Improvement Plans and more detailed Business Unit Plans, support the Council Plan by setting out how priorities and objectives and the day to day business of the Council will be delivered. These plans show the links to resource implications. The plans also include information about each service area and its achievements.

2010-2013 COUNCIL PLAN

4. The 2010-2013 Council Plan is in two main parts. The first is a narrative explaining about the Borough, the Council, its achievements and future plans. This has been updated this year to reflect an improved communication on the council's vision and priorities and is set out under the themes of: Stockton Borough – The Place, Stockton Borough – the People and Stockton Borough – the Council. The eight themes within the Sustainable Community Strategy fall under these headings. The second part of the plan details an action plan which sets out how the key priorities of the Council will be delivered.
5. The objectives within the 2010-2013 Council Plan have changed from the previous year to be more outcomes focussed, highlight key priority areas, and recognise the current financial climate and pressures and demands on services.
6. Key Council Priorities are detailed below under each of the Sustainable Community Strategy Themes. **Appendix one provides further detail:**

Stockton Borough – The Place

Economic Regeneration and Transport

- Minimise the effects of the economic downturn on Stockton through proactive responses and partnership working.
- Regenerate the Borough through the delivery of major local and sub regional projects.
- Improve and promote a sustainable transport network.
- Strengthen Strategic Planning through the Local Development Scheme.

Environment and Housing

- Make the Borough a cleaner, greener and more attractive environment.
- Provide appropriate accommodation, assistance and support for residents of the borough including those who are vulnerable and with special needs.
- Meet the challenges of the housing Market.
- Tackle climate change through carbon reduction and resilience to extreme weather events.

Culture and Leisure

- Develop our Events Programme, to involve local people, raise the profile of the area.
- Highlight and celebrate our heritage.
- Refresh our libraries and invest in new technologies to deliver a wider range of services more effectively.
- Increase participation in sport and active leisure through innovative programmes and high profile events.

Stockton Borough – The People

Children and Young People

- Ensure effective multi-agency safeguarding of vulnerable children and young people.
- Raise achievement across all Key Stages for all children, particularly for the vulnerable and hard to reach groups.
- Further improve young people's participation, progression, retention and achievement in further education, training and employment.

- Seek to reduce poverty and the impact of poverty on children, young people and families.
- Improve the quality of learning and school buildings through implementing Building Schools for the Future and Primary Capital Programmes.

Adult Services

- Improve choice and control over personal health and well being.
- Ensure effective safeguarding arrangements are in place for all service users.

Health and Wellbeing

- Reduce health inequalities by adding 'life to years and years to life'.
- Reduce substance misuse (including alcohol and tobacco) by children, young people and adults and reduce the effect on children, young and family life.
- Reduce levels of obesity in children, young people and adults.

Community Safety

- Reduce levels of youth offending and anti-social behaviour.
- Reduce Crime and the Fear of Crime.
- Ensure our residents are safe.

Stronger Communities

- Create the conditions for a strong and vibrant Third Sector.
- Further develop Community Engagement infrastructure and activity.
- Develop an appropriate Member Learning and Development Strategy that supports and enables Members to be effective

Our people

- Implement our 'People Strategy' and Integrated Children's workforce strategy:
 - Develop new ways of working and achieve value for money.
 - Achieving Excellence in leadership and management.
 - Developing the workforce.
 - Recruiting and retaining a diverse and talented workforce.
 - Working together.

Our organisational effectiveness

- Establish a shared intelligence framework with partners.
- Deliver the Customer Excellence Programme.
- Promote a positive image of the Council and pride in the area.
- Develop a Member Induction Strategy for 2011 that enables Members to become/continue to be excellent Councillors with a good understanding of their role, responsibilities and priorities for the Council.
- Deliver the Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation Programme.
- Investigate feasibility of partnering opportunities.
- Develop new approaches to commissioning.

7. The plan has been developed in partnership with:
 - Councillors – through seminars on the budget and Council Plan and through discussion sessions with members.
 - Corporate Management Team, Heads of Service and Policy Officers through joint working to develop the plan.
8. The plan also takes into consideration the results of consultation and engagement with local people, including Place survey results.
9. Full copies of the plan will be provided to members, senior managers and key partners. A summary version of the Council Plan will also be prepared for all staff. The Council Plan will be made available in public places and copies can be provided to the public if requested. Full and summary versions will also be available via the Internet.

SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLANS 2010 - 13

10. The service improvement plans support the delivery of the Council Plan and Sustainable Community Strategy. Plans are structured to include:
 - an introduction outlining the strategic direction of the service and key achievements from the previous year;
 - action plans linked to the eight themes of the Sustainable Community Strategy and a theme of Stockton borough – The Council. The action plans include links to other plans, identify actions and milestones, responsible officers, success measures, targets and risks. In addition where actions will have resource implications these are identified.
 - The medium term financial plan for the service
 - A performance indicator table including both measures and targets.
11. Plans have been developed to cover all service areas. Performance against SIPs will be monitored and reported to Members twice a year, alongside Council Plan monitoring.
12. The abridged versions of the draft SIPs, focus on key elements of the action plans. Latest draft documents are available on the intranet at <http://sbcintranet/library/65067/128067> Once agreed, plans will be published in both electronic and hard copy with a set of hard copy plans lodged in the member's library.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial

13. The development of the draft Council Plan and Service Improvement Plans has been closely linked to the medium term financial planning process, to ensure that resources are in place to deliver the key objectives and outcomes set out.

Legal

14. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

15. All of the objectives within the Council Plan have been subject to risk assessments and received risk ratings, which form part of the quarterly monitoring. None of the risks have been identified as significantly high.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

16. The Council Plan sets out the Council's contribution to delivering the Borough's Sustainable Community Strategy

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

17. An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out on the Council Plan. The assessment demonstrated that delivery of the Council Plan will have a positive impact on the borough's diverse communities. Further details are available on the Council's website

CORPORATE PARENTING

18. The objectives within the Children and Young People elements of the Council Plan support the Council's Corporate Parenting responsibilities.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

19. Extensive consultation evidence has informed these plans, including:
- Consultation with the public via Residents Satisfaction Surveys. Consultation with elected members
 - Consultation with staff.

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Education Related

The Children and Young People Themes takes into consideration all children in the borough including those looked after by the Authority. All Sustainable Community Strategy themes include priorities and actions that will positively impact on children.

Background Papers

Sustainable community Strategy 2008 – 2021
Council Plan 2009 - 2012

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors

All members were consulted on the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy and have been included in the development of the Council Plan through the Members' Seminar and discussion groups regarding budgets and priorities.

Property

There are no direct property implications related to this report.