

## CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

**AGENDA ITEM:**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**24<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2011**

**REPORT OF  
CORPORATE  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

### **COUNCIL DECISION**

**LEADER OF THE COUNCIL – Cllr Lupton**

#### **COUNCIL PLAN 2011-14**

1. Summary

This report is to provide members with the detail of the priorities for the Council Plan for 2011-14. 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 priorities are underpinned by Service Plans within each service area.

The plan for 2011-2014 reflects the current challenges facing the Council and the need to make the budget reductions outlined in the Medium Term Financial Plan, in the context of a 2 year settlement from central government.

There is no significant change from last years plan and it reflects the fact that the main focus will be to deliver the Value for Money Programme. A more fundamental review of the Council Plan will be undertaken following the review of the Sustainable Community Strategy and May 2011 elections.

2. Recommendations

1. To note the draft priorities for the Council Plan.
2. To recommend the priorities to Council.
3. To note the review of the Sustainable Community Strategy in 2011.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

The Council Plan sets out how the Council will improve its services and contribute to community objectives. The plan is based on the ambitions set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy but provides a 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 plan.

#### 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.**

**AGENDA ITEM:**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2011**

**REPORT OF CORPORATE  
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**COUNCIL DECISION**

**LEADER OF THE COUNCIL – Cllr Lupton**

**COUNCIL PLAN 2011-2014**

**SUMMARY**

This report is to provide members with the detail of the priorities for the Council Plan for 2011-14. 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 priorities are underpinned by Service Plans within each service area.

The plan for 2011-2014 reflects the current challenges facing the Council and the need to make the budget reductions outlined in the Medium Term Financial Plan, in the context of a 2 year settlement from central government.

There is no significant change from last year's plan and it reflects the fact that the main focus years will be to deliver the Value for Money Programme. A more fundamental review of the Council Plan will be undertaken following the review of the Sustainable Community Strategy and May 2011 elections.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. To note the draft priorities for the Council Plan.
2. To recommend the priorities to Council.
3. To note the review of the Sustainable Community Strategy in 2011.

**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 a focus on the key council priorities we need to achieve and monitor regularly. The LSP has already agreed to review the Sustainable Community Strategy in the light of current challenges and the ending of the Local Area Agreement which formed the 3 year delivery plan for the strategy. A more fundamental review of the Council Plan for 2012 – 15 will follow this review.

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 and effective and efficient management of Council resources. 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 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.

## **2011-2104 COUNCIL PLAN**

4. The plan follows the same structure as last year's plan 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. It details the key priorities the Council will deliver taking account of the budget settlement and this report focuses on identifying those key priorities.
5. Key Council Priorities are detailed below under each of the Sustainable Community Strategy Themes. Appendix one provides details of the changes from last year's plan and the rationale.

6.

### **Stockton Borough – The Place**

#### **Economic Regeneration and Transport**

- Promote prosperity and minimise the effect of the economic downturn.
- Regenerate the Borough
- Promote a sustainable transport network that supports regeneration and economic growth
- Strengthen policy planning to improve accessibility for work, leisure, retail and health for our communities.

#### **Environment and Housing**

- Provide a clean, green and attractive environment throughout the Borough
- Provide appropriate housing support for vulnerable residents in the Borough

#### **Culture and Leisure**

- Improve 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

## **Stockton Borough – The People**

### **Children and Young People**

- Improve and develop support for families with a child or young person with a disability
- Ensure effective multi-agency safeguarding of our most vulnerable children and young people.
- Narrow the gap in attainment
- Ensure all young people are in receipt of education, employment or training to meet their needs
- Improve outcomes for children and young people in care
- Improve targeted early intervention services to reduce the need for specialist intervention services including the development of the use of the Common Assessment Framework
- Reduce levels of obesity in children and young people
- Improve children's emotional health and well being

### **Adult Services**

- Ensure effective multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are in place for all service users.
- Enable all service users to receive personalised care management and support
- Support prevention and early intervention

### **Health and Wellbeing**

- Reduce the negative impact of substance misuse, including alcohol on children, young people and their families
- Reduce the impact of poverty on family life
- Effectively manage the transition around the National Health Framework

### **Community Safety**

- Reduce levels of youth offending including 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.
- Implementation of the Localism Bill

### **Our organisational effectiveness**

- Strengthen corporate and ethical governance
- Ensure effective marketing and communications
- Establish a shared intelligence framework across the Council and its partners including all data and performance management information
- Deliver the Council's Value for Money Programme
- Implement findings from national review of local government finance

7. The priorities have been developed in partnership with:
  - Councillors – through seminars on the budget and Council Plan priorities.
  - Sharing the list of draft priorities and outline actions with all 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 and Viewpoint results.
9. The number of published hard copies of the plan will be kept to a minimum. Copies will be provided in the Members' library and in public libraries. A summary version of the Council Plan will also be prepared and promoted to staff through KYIT and team meetings. The Council Plan and summary version will be made available via the Internet with copies available on request.

### **Monitoring Arrangements**

10. Achievement against the priorities in the plan will be monitored through the Service Grouping Management Teams and via the Policy Officer Group. Formal reporting to CMT through Improvement Clinics three times per year, Cabinet and Executive Scrutiny will be carried out twice a year. This is a reduction on the previous quarterly cycle and reflects the changes to the national performance framework and the reduction in staffing supporting performance monitoring and reporting as a result of the EIT review of Admin and Business Support approved by Cabinet. Progress against individual strands will also be reported through the LSP thematic groups and progress against EIT reviews through the existing mechanisms.
11. Fuller details in relation to targets and measures of success will be developed in line with the abolition of the National Indicator Set and an assessment of what it is appropriate for us to retain at a Stockton level, with consideration being given to the reduced potential for benchmarking. Officers are currently reviewing the single data set produced by government against the agreed priorities to determine appropriate performance measures.

### **FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Financial**

12. The development of the priorities has been closely linked to the medium term financial planning process, to ensure that resources are in place to deliver the identified priorities and manage the daily business of the Council.

#### **Legal**

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

### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

14. All of the priorities within the Council Plan have been subject to risk assessments. As the planning has been closely linked with the MTFP none of the risks have been identified as significantly high.

## **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

16. As there is no significant change from last years plan the EIA conducted for last years plan has been reviewed and is still relevant. That assessment demonstrated that delivery of the Council Plan will have a positive impact on the Borough's diverse communities. Individual assessments of actions arising from the outcomes of EIT reviews are conducted within each review.

## **CORPORATE PARENTING**

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

## **CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

18. Consultation has been carried out as identified in paragraph 7 above.

### 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 2010- 2013

### Property

There are no direct property implications related to this report.

### **Contact Officer Details:**

**Name:** Lesley King  
**Title:** Head of Policy, Performance and Partnerships  
**Tel No.** 527004  
**Email:** [lesley.king@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:lesley.king@stockton.gov.uk)