

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT TO CABINET

23rd FEBRUARY 2012

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

COUNCIL DECISION

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL – Cllr Cook

COUNCIL PLAN 2012-15

1. Summary

This report is to provide members with the detail of the priorities for the Council Plan for 2012-15. 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 2012-2015 reflects the current challenges and opportunities facing the Council and the need to continue to make the budget reductions outlined in the Medium Term Financial Plan, in the context of the 2 year settlement from central government.

There are no significant changes from last years plan and it reflects the fact that the main focus will continue to be the delivery of the Value for Money Programme, to meet the Medium Term Financial Plan targets. Results of a review to determine the impact of current and proposed legislation/policy changes have been reflected in revised key actions and where appropriate targets have been amended.

2. Recommendations

Cabinet:-

1. To note the priorities for the Council Plan.
2. To recommend the plan to Council.
3. To delegate the agreement of success measures and targets to the Corporate Director of Resources in conjunction with the Leader and the Lead Member for Corporate Management and Finance by the end of March 2012.

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.

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SUMMARY

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet: -

1. To note the draft priorities for the Council Plan.
2. To recommend the plan to Council.
3. To delegate the agreement of success measures and targets to the Corporate Director of Resources in conjunction with the Leader and the Lead Member for Corporate Management and Finance by the end of March 2012.

BACKGROUND

1. The Council Plan sets out how the Council will contribute to the community objectives set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy. It provides a 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 objectives and outcomes and to support the effective and efficient management of Council resources. The focus of the plan can shift 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.
4. The priorities and outcomes in the Council Plan shape the performance monitoring and reporting arrangements.

2012-2015 COUNCIL PLAN

5. The plan broadly follows the same structure as last year's plan. To reflect improved communication and transparency on the Council's vision and priorities it continues to be set out under the themes of: Place, Communities and Organisation. A further development this year brings the priorities and key actions for delivery, under those same 3 headings rather than individual service grouping headings. This helps to reinforce what happens in practice i.e. that some of the actions to deliver priorities cut across 2 or more service areas. It has helped eliminate potential duplication of activity, support the performance management and reporting arrangements and makes the links between priorities, actions and success measures clearer than they currently are. Further clarity is provided by identifying the enablers which support delivery of the development priorities and clarification on the resources to support key actions. A copy of the Council Plan framework is attached at **Appendix One** to this report. The colour coding within the framework reflects that within Stockton News.
6. Key Council Priorities are detailed below under each of the Sustainable Community Strategy Themes.

Stockton Borough – The Place

Desired outcomes:

- Stockton-on-Tees at the heart of a vibrant and economically successful Tees Valley
- A cleaner, greener Stockton on Tees with high quality housing provision
- A safer Stockton
- A healthier borough

Key priorities:

Economic Regeneration and Transport

- Promote a sustainable transport network
- Regenerate the Borough
- Promote prosperity and support economic recovery.
- Improve and celebrate our Heritage
- Improve accessibility for work, leisure, retail and health.
- Refresh our libraries
- Develop innovative events programmes.

Environment and Housing

- Provide clean streets, attractive parks and green spaces.
- Increase housing and support options for vulnerable households.
- Prevent Homelessness.
- Increase the supply of affordable housing
- Tackle climate change

Community Safety

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

Stockton Borough – The People

Desired Outcomes:

- A healthier borough
- No child left behind
- Independence and dignity for older people
- Stronger, more cohesive communities

Health and Wellbeing

- Ensure effective transition for the Council to the new national and local health arrangements
- Reduce the negative impact of substance misuse
- Reduce the impact of poverty on family life

Children and Young People

- Support for families with a child or young person with a disability
- Ensure effective multi-agency safeguarding for the most vulnerable children and young people.
- Narrow the attainment gap
- Ensure all young people are in receipt of education, employment or training
- Improve outcomes for children and young people in care
- Improve targeted early intervention services
- 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
- Effective prevention and early intervention

Stronger Communities

- A strong and vibrant Third Sector.
- Effective Community Engagement.
- Effective internal and external consultation
- Effective local democracy

Stockton Borough – The Organisation

Desired Outcomes:

- A Council that is fair, effective, efficient and delivers value for money and exceptional customer service

Our Organisation

- Strong corporate and ethical governance
- Effective marketing and communications
- Develop a customer focussed organisational culture
- A robust performance and financial management framework
- Deliver value for money

7. The priorities have been developed through contributions from and discussions with;
 - Councillors – through seminars on the budget and Council Plan priorities and wider sharing of the revised Council Plan framework and new activity and actions
 - Corporate Management Team, Heads of Service and Policy Officers.

8. The plan also takes into consideration the results of consultation and engagement with local people, analysis of performance information and outcomes from complaints.
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.
10. The actions to deliver the priorities to achieve the desired outcomes are presented at **Appendix 2** using the same presentation of place, communities and organisation – linked to the Sustainable Community Strategy themes.
11. Success measures and targets are currently being developed by officers based on analysis of the latest performance data and continued emerging national guidance e.g., public health outcomes framework measures and indicators. This will form a 'corporate basket' of indicators and targets. Delegation of final agreement of measures and targets is requested for the Corporate Director of Resources in conjunction with the Council Leader and Lead Member for Corporate Management and Finance by the end of March 2012. Agreed measures and targets will be shared with all members for comment.

Monitoring Arrangements

12. Achievement against the priorities and targets in the plan will be monitored and challenged via:
 - Service Grouping Management Teams
 - Policy Officer Group
 - formal reporting to CMT through Improvement Clinics three times per year
 - Twice yearly reporting to Cabinet and Executive Scrutiny
 - Progress against relevant individual strands will also be reported through the LSP thematic groups
 - Progress against EIT reviews will continue to be monitored through scrutiny and other existing mechanisms. Progress will be published on the web site quarterly.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial

13. 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

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

RISK ASSESSMENT

15. All of the priorities within the Council Plan have been subject to risk assessments. As the planning has been closely linked with the development of the MTFP 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. As there is little 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. Any development or changes to policy and/or services as a result of the identified national policy/legislative changes will be subject to an impact assessment.

CORPORATE PARENTING

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

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

19. 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 2011- 2014

Property

There are no direct property implications related to this report.

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