

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

DATE: 12th FEBRUARY, 2015

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

COUNCIL DECISION

The Leader – Councillor Bob Cook

THE COUNCIL PLAN 2015-18

1. Summary

This report presents a draft Council Plan for 2015-18, prior to it being submitted for Full Council approval.

2. Recommendations

- i. Cabinet endorse the draft Council Plan for approval by Full Council.
- ii. Cabinet delegate authority for the agreement of the targets associated with the delivery of the Council Plan to the Corporate Director for Resources in conjunction with the Leader of the Council.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

The Council Plan is one of the key policy documents within the Council's Constitution and sets out the ambition, values and direction of travel for the Council within the resources available to it.

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 (**paragraphs 10 and 11 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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COUNCIL DECISION

THE COUNCIL PLAN 2015-18

SUMMARY

This report presents a draft Council Plan for 2015-18, prior to it being submitted for Full Council approval. A copy of the Council Plan 2015 – 18 is available on E Genda detailed as **Appendix 1** to this report .

RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. Cabinet endorse the draft Council Plan for approval by Full Council.
- ii. Cabinet delegate authority for the agreement of the targets associated with the delivery of the Council Plan to the Corporate Director for Resources in conjunction with the Leader of the Council.

DETAIL

1. Last year, the Council Plan 2014 – 17 underwent a robust review process prior to approval by Council in March 2014. As a result , it was agreed that the refresh of the plan for 2015-18 would be light touch, taking into consideration any new legislative and policy changes, rolling forward ongoing actions and removing those completed. Details of the Policy and Legislative changes, performance measures and targets would also be rolled forward or reviewed as required. A full review would take place next year following the May 2015 local and national elections.

HOW THE COUNCIL PLAN 2015 -18 WAS DEVELOPED.

1. New policy and legislative changes that have emerged since the development of the plan last year were considered and mapped against existing objectives and actions in section 4 of the plan. This identified where existing activity already supported any new policy changes or highlighted potential gaps. A copy of this mapping exercise is available on E Genda detailed as **Appendix 2** to this report.
2. Discussions took place at each Service Group Management Team meeting, providing a challenge to the list of policy and legislative changes and identifying any new objectives and actions for inclusion in the 2015- 18 plan. Discussion also highlighted completed actions and considered arrangements for monitoring outcomes and provisional target setting.

THE 2015-18 COUNCIL PLAN

3. The Council Plan 2015/18 is in 2 parts. The “front end” sections 1 – 3, sets out the Council’s overall ambition, vision, policy principles and priorities and provides the context in which the Council delivers its services. This is supported by narrative providing information about changing demographics, details of national policy and legislation that have informed the plan, the links to other key strategic plans, consultation activity, both internal and external challenge and inspection regimes that support our priority setting and improvement programme.
4. The second part, sections 4 and 5, provides the activity to be undertaken detailed by theme and the agreed policy principles. It sets out the desired outcome, key objectives and related actions to be delivered through the duration of the plan. The final version of the plan will include a range of indicators and targets on which progress can be monitored and success measured. Targets are being considered using the latest available outturn data and where available revised targets are included in the plan however for some residual measures where year-end data is required, Cabinet is requested to delegate the decision on approval of these targets to the Corporate Director for Resources in conjunction with the Leader of the Council.

NEXT STEPS

5. Discussion sessions have been organised for the 10th and 13th February 2015, for elected members to discuss the Council Plan 2015/18 alongside the medium term financial plan arrangements. Group discussions are also ongoing.
6. Further work on residual measures and target setting continues as year-end data releases become available.
7. A summary version of the Council Plan 2015-18 is to be developed following approval of the full version of the plan.
8. Both the full and summary version of the Council Plan 2015- 18 will be published on the councils Web Site following approval by Council in March 2015.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The development of the draft Council Plan 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 in the plan.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The development of the Council Plan is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce the risk.

A BRIGHTER BOROUGH FOR ALL – TACKLING FAMILY POVERTY ACROSS STOCKTON-ON-TEES

The draft Council Plan includes a range of actions that support the delivery of the Council's contribution towards delivering 'A brighter borough for all'.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

Elected members were consulted through briefings with the Group Leaders at the framework stage and via the budget drop-in sessions for all members.

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Education related Not specifically

Background Papers: None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: N/A

Property: N/A