

## **REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**24<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2010**

## **REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM**

### **COUNCIL DECISION**

**LEADER OF THE COUNCIL – Cllr Lupton**

#### **COUNCIL PLAN AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLANS 2010-2013**

##### **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.

##### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. To recommend the draft Council Plan and Service Improvement Plans for approval..

##### **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. **Appendix one** provides a list of the contents of part one of the plan and the key priorities detailed in part two of the plan.
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.

### **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 at **Appendix two** and also 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.