

AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT TO COUNCIL

7 MARCH 2012

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

COUNCIL DECISION

COUNCIL PLAN 2012-2015

SUMMARY

This report provides 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 to priorities 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 new, current and proposed legislation/policy changes have been reflected in revised key actions and where appropriate targets have been amended.

The Council Plan Framework, priorities, outcomes and results from the review of new policy / legislation, has been shared with members during the development of the plan.

At a meeting on the 23rd February 2012, Cabinet gave consideration to the proposals detailed in this report and agreed the recommendations as set out below, for the approval process. (Please see relevant minute attached at **Appendix 1**).

RECOMMENDATIONS

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. This will be shared with all members.

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 2** to this report. Although not reflected in the appendix, the framework is colour coded which reflects the themes within Stockton News.
6. Key Council Priorities are detailed below under each of the Sustainable Community Strategy Themes. Actions to support the delivery of the desired outcomes and priorities have been developed. These are attached at **Appendix 3**.

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.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial

9. 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

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

RISK ASSESSMENT

11. 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

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

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

13. 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

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

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

15. 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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