

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO COUNCIL

DATE: 4TH MARCH 2015

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

THE COUNCIL PLAN 2015 -18

SUMMARY

This report presents a draft Council Plan for 2015-18, providing details of the approach, development, consultation process and arrangements for target setting and approval. A copy of the Council Plan 2015 – 18 is detailed at Appendix 1. Policy and Legislative changes are detailed at Appendix 2. The report and both appendices are available on agenda.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. The Council Plan is approved.
- ii. Authority for the agreement of targets associated with the delivery of the Council Plan is delegated to the Corporate Director for Resources in conjunction with the Leader of the Council.

DETAIL

1. At the Cabinet meeting on 12th February 2015 members received information on the approach, development, content and consultation arrangements undertaken in support of the development of the Council Plan 2015 -18. Members endorsed the Plan and recommended it for approval at Council.
2. 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. 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.

3. 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 agenda detailed as **Appendix 2** to this report.

4. 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

5. 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.
6. 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 outcomes, key objectives and related actions to be delivered through the duration of the plan
7. 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. For some measures, where year-end data is required, Council are requested to delegate the decision on approval of these targets to the Corporate Director for Resources in conjunction with the Leader of the Council.

CONSULTATION AND NEXT STEPS

8. Member’s discussion sessions have taken place on the 10th and 13th February 2015, on the Council Plan 2015/18 and arrangements for the medium term financial plan. Wider member briefings and Group discussions have also taken place.
9. Work continues on developing measures and future targets as year-end data releases become available.
10. A summary version of the Council Plan 2015-18 is to be developed following approval of the full version of the plan.
11. Both the full and summary version of the Council Plan 2015- 18 will be published on the council’s web site at the end of March 2015 following Council approval.
12. Cabinet considered the item on 12th February 2015 and a copy of the relevant minute extract is attached to the report.

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 – Tackling Family Poverty. .

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

Elected members were consulted through briefings with the Group Leaders, specific member briefing sessions in February and wider member consultation.

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Education related Not specifically

Background Papers: None