

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET COUNCIL		
SUBJECT:	COUNCIL PLAN 2013- 2016		
DATE OF DECISION:	16 th JULY 2013 17 th JULY 2013		
REPORT OF:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL		
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
None.			

BRIEF SUMMARY

The Council Plan forms part of the council's Policy Framework and must therefore be approved by Council. It is a cross cutting document which covers all areas of the council's activities. The plan reflects the leadership role of the Executive in delivering the council's policy objectives, value for money and service improvement for the benefit of residents and businesses in the city. It is set in the context of opportunities and challenges faced by the council which influence priorities for the next 3 years. The council's strategic planning and policy framework is being reviewed in light of the Council Plan so that they relate to the delivery of the priorities in this Plan and can be streamlined.

The Council Plan 2013-16 has been drafted as an easy to read, simple document so that it can be more accessible to and understood by all staff and stakeholders. It reflects the council's priorities and identifies a short list of measures that the council will use to measure success. It seeks to highlight the key improvements and developments the council is aiming to achieve in the next 3 years and therefore does not detail all the council's "business as usual" activities. In developing this plan, the Cabinet has worked with the Council's Management Team to consider known national policy and budgetary changes which will have a significant impact on the city. The council remains committed to delivering its planned short and medium term aspirations and key projects. However, progress over the next few years will be partially dependent on the availability of funding from external sources.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Cabinet

- (i) To note the recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, as reported verbally at the meeting, which, if approved by Council, will be reflected in the final version of the plan
- (ii) To recommend the draft Council Plan 2013-16, including the council priorities as detailed in Appendix 1, to Council for approval.

Council

- (i) To note the recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and Cabinet, to be reported verbally at the meeting, and which, if approved, will be reflected in the final version of the Council Plan
- (ii) To approve the draft Council Plan 2013-16, including the council priorities as detailed in Appendix 1
- (iii) To delegate authority to the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, to finalise the Council Plan 2013-16, including incorporating any changes made at the meeting and to make any in year changes and to refresh relevant sections of the plan in 2014 and 2015 so that it aligns with any new budgetary or policy developments which will impact on the council's activities during 2013-2016.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Council Plan is a key element in the council's policy framework and as such there is a requirement that the council publishes this document. The plan sets the direction and priorities of the council for 2013-2016 to ensure the council has an integrated and planned approach from which policies and spending decisions will be made. However, further amendments will be required as a result of the council's budgetary planning for the next 3 years and emerging national policy changes. Delegated authority is therefore being sought to enable the plan to be amended to reflect any future changes.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

2. Not to produce a Council Plan - this has been rejected because the plan sets the direction and priorities of the council and is the key overarching document for directorates to plan future service delivery and stakeholders to link to as appropriate.
To have an alternative plan / priorities – this has been rejected because the priorities identified in this plan best suit the challenges and issues facing the council and our customers.

DETAIL (INCLUDING CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT)

3. Whilst recognising the period of change the council is going through, its core purpose and commitment remains the delivery of excellent services to its customers and to lead economic development in the city.
4. The draft Council Plan 2013 – 2016 identifies the council's priorities and is based on the 2013/14 budget, approved by Council in February 2013. The budget was formulated following extensive consultation with local residents and stakeholders. The draft Council Plan incorporates key service improvements and commitments identified by directorates.
5. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) is due to consider the draft Council Plan 2013-16 on 11 July 2013 with the Leader and the Chief Executive. Their recommendations will be reported verbally at the Cabinet and Council meetings.

6. The final Council Plan 2013-16 will be published on the council's website, following consideration of the feedback from OSMC, Cabinet and Council.
7. The draft Council Plan 2013-16, attached as Appendix 1, outlines the council's vision, priorities, and what the council wants to achieve by 2016 to deliver effective, quality and efficient services to customers and lead on economic development.
8. The council's vision is One Council, working for a sustainable Southampton – Economically, Socially and Environmentally. The council's top priorities, as identified in the draft Council Plan are:
 - Promoting Southampton and attracting investment
 - Raising ambitions and improving outcomes for children and young people
 - Improving health and keeping people safe
 - Helping individuals and communities to work together and help themselves
 - Encouraging new house building and improving existing homes
 - Making the city more attractive and sustainable
 - Developing an engaged, skilled and motivated workforce
 - Implementing better ways of working to manage reduced budgets and increased demand
9. The Council Plan reflects the need for the council to meet its financial challenges while still maintaining its focus on delivering quality services to customers. Hence, the plan emphasises the delivery of the transformation programme to achieve the required level of savings and ensure the capacity of the organisation to achieve this.
10. The draft Council Plan also identifies that the council has to modernise and therefore, will need to be reshaped over the next 3 years. The council has to become a more business like organisation, driving out unnecessary costs and ensuring that the council is maximising investment to support the delivery of services and economic growth.
11. The draft Council Plan is a much shorter Plan than in previous years, with the aim of it being a more reader friendly version that is more accessible to and understood by a wide range of people. It has been designed to be printed and used as an A3 poster or fold-out document and will be easily viewed online.
12. The top priorities represent improvement that the Council as a whole will focus and progress on. These priorities for improvement will be reported to Cabinet on a quarterly basis. Each directorate will also focus on a list of priorities for improvement with the aim of narrowing our focus on the essential performance indicators within each directorate. The same approach will be taken at a service level, with the aim of focusing on the most important areas for improving performance.
13. The Cabinet is committed to equalities, anti-poverty and fairness and the priorities reflect many of the challenges relating to tackling inequalities that the council and its partners face and the proposed actions for the council over the next 3 years. These include actions to address health inequalities, helping people to address the impact of the welfare reforms and reducing the gap in educational attainment. Integrating equalities in this way helps the council to

mainstream compliance with equalities legislation and therefore, it is proposed that the council's Equality Action Plan will detail only those actions that are not included in the Council Plan. The council will continue to mainstream equality issues into its day-to-day business, for example, by using Equality and Safety Impact Assessments to inform decision making.

14. The areas requiring continued improvement reflect some of the challenges:
- Achieving marked improvement in school attendance ranking, as for the 2011/12 school year Southampton ranked 147th out of 152 local authorities for total school absence
 - Improving educational performance for some groups of children and young people, particularly those eligible for free school meals
 - Improving children's safeguarding services
 - Reducing health inequalities across the city
 - Modernising adult social care services, helping people become more self reliant and reducing delayed transfers of care
 - Increasing business growth and business start ups in Southampton
 - Increasing recycling rates and transforming waste services
 - Ensuring the council has the capacity to achieve the required level of change
 - Reducing council costs by 30% at a time of increasing demand for some council services
 - Working with our partners to improve our relative performance in overall crime
15. The current Council Plan (2011-14) was approved in July 2011 and highlights of the progress against agreed targets detailed in that plan are attached at Appendix 2.
16. The final version of the Council Plan will be published on the Council's website.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital

17. There are no additional capital implications for 2013/14 arising from the proposals outlined in this report.

Revenue

18. There are no additional revenue implications for 2013/14 arising from the approval of the report's recommendations. The measures contained within the plan will be met from the resources allocated to portfolios through the 2013/14 budget setting process and future approved budgets.

Property

19. None as a consequence of the recommendations contained within this report.

Other

20. None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

21. The statutory powers for producing this plan can be found in the Local Government & Housing Act 1989, Local Government Acts 1972, 1999 and 2000 and s.1 Localism Act 2011. The council has a statutory duty to secure best value. The production of the Council Plan demonstrates that the council has an integrated and planned approach to this requirement.

Other Legal Implications:

22. In preparing the plan the council has had regard to its duties under the Equalities Act 2010, the Human Rights Act 1998 and s.17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

23. The annual Council Plan forms part of the council's Policy Framework, as set out in Article 4 of the Council's Constitution. The Executive is, for almost all functions, responsible for implementing the policies and spending the budget in accordance with the Policy Framework and budget. Each of the proposed actions in this plan will be subject to the council's normal decision making processes, including detailed legal and financial assessments as necessary.
24. In developing this plan, consideration has been given to known national policy and budgetary changes which will have a significant impact on the city. Progress over the next few years will be partially dependent on the availability of funding from external sources or the identification of new income sources. As it is not possible to guarantee the outcomes in some cases, the Council Plan is subject to in year variation. It is therefore proposed to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, to finalise the Council Plan, including incorporating any changes made at the meeting and to make any in year changes and to refresh relevant sections of the Plan in 2014 and 2015 so that it aligns with any new budgetary or policy developments which will impact on the council's activities during 2013- 2016.
25. Any in year amendments will be highlighted through the council's performance monitoring arrangements, which includes the presentation of information highlighting key variances to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1	Draft Council Plan 2013 - 2016
2	Council Plan 2011 - 14 – Progress highlights

Documents In Members' Rooms

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Background Documents

Title of Background Paper(s) Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information
Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to
be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

	None.	
KEY DECISION	Yes	
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All	