

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	COUNCIL		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	COUNCIL PLAN 2011- 2014		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	13 JULY 2011		
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL		
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<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>			
None.			

### **SUMMARY**

The Council Plan forms part of the Council's Policy Framework and must therefore be approved by Full Council. It is a cross cutting document which covers all areas of the Council's activities. The Plan demonstrates the organisation's commitment to securing the statutory duty of best value in all aspects of service delivery. It also 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. Copies of the draft Council Plan are available in Members' Rooms and from the report author.

The draft Council Plan reflects local priorities, as well as 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:**

- (i) To approve the draft 2011- 2014 Council Plan, including the top 7 priorities for the Council as detailed in the Plan;
- (ii) To note the recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee as set out in the report, which will be reflected in the final version of the Plan;
- (iii) 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 refresh relevant sections of the Plan in 2012 and 2013 so that it aligns with any new budgetary or policy developments which will impact on the Council's activities during 2011- 2014.

### **REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Council's Constitution requires the Council Plan to be submitted by the Executive to Full Council for approval, after a draft has been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee. The content of the draft Council Plan has been cross checked against the proposals set out in the Council's operating budget for 2011/12 and national policies and initiatives. However, further amendments will be required as a result of the Council's budgetary planning for the next 3 years and assessment of emerging national policy changes. Delegated authority is therefore being sought to enable the Council Plan to be amended to reflect any changes.

## CONSULTATION

2. The draft Council Plan 2011 – 2014 identifies the Council's top priorities and is based on the 2011/12 budget, approved by Full Council in February. 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.
3. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee discussed the draft Council Plan 2011 – 2014 on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 with Cabinet Members and the Chief Executive. Their recommendations were:
  - that resource implications are identified within the Council Plan.
  - that the Council Plan makes specific reference to reviewing Council contracts to ensure that they are offering value for money, given the financial position the Authority is in; and
  - the Cabinet considers how the Council can utilise the forthcoming General Power of Competence that local authorities are to be given to help address issues in the City.
4. The final draft of the Council Plan 2011 – 2014, to be published on the Council's website, will reflect these points. In particular, it is intended to include the following on page 21 of the draft Council Plan:

*We will consider the opportunities and challenges arising from national government initiatives and policies including:*

  - *General Power of Competence*
  - *Localism Bill*
  - *Health and Social Care changes*
  - *New Homes Bonus*
  - *Feed In Tariffs*
  - *Business Rates*
  - *Welfare Reforms and Social Housing Reforms*
  - *Community Infrastructure Levy*
  - *Pupil Premium*
  - *University Fees*
  - *More schools becoming Academies*
  - *Greater personalisation of services*

*In tackling the financial challenges we face, we will also need to work with our public and private sector partners to achieve the most cost efficient ways of delivering services and securing value for money by:*

  - *Prioritising our income generation capability through external sources of funding e.g. EU and trading and charging policies*
  - *Working with our partners in the private and public sector to deliver different models of service delivery*
  - *Reviewing our contracts to ensure that they deliver value for money greater efficiencies, thus making a contribution to meeting the Council's financial challenges and targets*
  - *Increasing the proportion of the Council's expenditure on direct service delivery.*

## ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5. None, since the Council Plan is a Policy Framework document.

### DETAIL

6. Whilst recognising the period of change the Council is going through, the core purpose and commitment of the Council remains the delivery of excellent services to its customers and to lead economic development in the City. The draft Council Plan reflects the City vision and City challenges identified by Southampton Connect and seeks to make a significant contribution to improving outcomes in these areas.
7. The Council Plan 2011 – 2014 outlines the Council's vision, priorities, and what the Council wants to achieve by 2014 to deliver excellent, value for money services to customers and lead on economic development. The Council's vision is to *attract more jobs for local people, secure more investment in the City and deliver high quality, low cost services that meet customer needs*. The Council top priorities, as identified in the draft Council Plan are:
  - More jobs for local people
  - More local people who are well education and skilled
  - A better and safer place in which to live and invest
  - Better protection for children and young people
  - Support for the most vulnerable people and families
  - Reducing health inequalities
  - Reshaping the Council for the future
8. The priority on reducing health inequalities reflects the new responsibilities that the Council will take on in the future, as a result of the changes detailed in the Public Health White Paper. The priority on Reshaping the Council for the future reflects the need for the Council to meet its financial challenges while still maintaining its focus on delivering excellent services to customers. Hence, this priority emphasises customer focus and increasing the proportion of Council expenditure on direct service delivery.
9. The draft Council Plan also details how the Council will need to be reshaped over the next 3 years 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.
10. The draft Council Plan is a much shorter Plan than such Plans in previous years, with the aim being more reader friendly to a wide range of people. The Plan also identifies a short list of top priorities for improvement that the Council as a whole will focus and progress on. These priorities for improvement will be reported to Cabinet regularly. Each Directorate will also focus on a maximum of 12 priorities for improvement with the aim of narrowing our focus on the essential performance indicators within a Directorate. The same approach will be taken at a service level, with the aim of focusing on the most important areas for improving performance.
11. The final version of the Council Plan will include details on resources and will be published on the Council's website.

## **FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Capital**

12. There are no additional capital implications for 2011/12 arising from the proposals outlined in this report.

### **Revenue**

13. There are no additional revenue implications for 2011/12 arising from the approval of the report's recommendations. The targets and commitments contained within the Plan will be met from the resources allocated to Portfolios through the 2011/12 budget setting process. Resource Implications will be identified in the final version of the Plan before it is published.

### **Property**

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

### **Other**

15. None.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:**

16. The statutory powers for producing this plan can be found in the Local Government Acts 1972, 1999 and 2000. 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:**

17. 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.
18. For some of the proposed actions included in the Council Plan bidding for external funding or the identification of new income sources may be required in due course to enable them to progressed, which may fail or be only partially successful. What is proposed in the Council Plan is therefore subject to in year variation. Delegated authority is therefore being sought to ensure that the plan remains in alignment with any key budgetary or policy changes during the course of the year. 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.

## **POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS**

19. The Council Plan is a policy framework document which must be approved by Full Council and be consistent with other Policy Framework documents as well as the Council's approved operating budget for the year.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices**

	Draft Council Plan
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**Documents In Members' Rooms**

	None
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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)
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	None.	
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**FORWARD PLAN No:** N/A

**KEY DECISION** Yes

**WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:** All wards and communities in Southampton will be affected by the implementation of the proposals set out in the Council Plan