

Agenda Item No: 9.1 **Report No:** 22/16
Report Title: The Council Plan 2016 - 2020
Report To: Cabinet **Date:** 8 February 2016
Cabinet Member: Councillor Andy Smith
Ward(s) Affected: All wards
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Purpose of Report:

1. For Cabinet to consider and recommend the draft Council Plan 2016 – 20 (with or without amendment) to full Council for adoption.

Officers Recommendations:

2. To consider the draft Council Plan for 2016 – 2020.
 3. To consider the feedback from consultation with partner organisations and other stakeholders that commenced on 21th December 2015 and is due to finish on 8th February 2016.
 4. To consider any recommendations arising from the Scrutiny Committee's consideration of the report on 14 January 2016.
 5. To recommend the draft Council Plan (with or without amendment) to full Council for adoption.
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Reasons for Recommendations

6. To enable the Council to set out its strategic vision, objectives and priority projects for the next four years and provide a firm basis for forward planning and performance management.

Information

7. Following the District Council election in May 2015, the Council has an opportunity to refocus on its vision, ambitions and priorities for the Lewes District over the next four years.

8. The Council Plan is a key corporate document. It sets out the Council's commitments to its residents and businesses and outlines a programme of important strategic projects and outcomes for the District. The Plan draws upon a range of statistical data, as well as the views of key stakeholders, to inform and help shape the policy priorities for the Council.
9. Whilst there is no longer a statutory requirement to produce a Council Plan, it remains important to ensure the Authority has a robust framework within which to monitor and assess performance and achievements.

Development of the draft Council Plan 2016-2020

10. The Council Plan aims to encapsulate the continuing ambitious aspirations of the organisation. The draft Plan (appendix 1) continues the strong existing commitment to improving services for customers and communities, achieving more by working together with key partners and delivering efficient, customer focussed services. This is set against the challenging financial backdrop which requires the Council to make the best possible use of its resources.
11. The draft Council Plan has been prepared for Members' consideration having regard to the following:
 - The Council's existing programme of transformation projects, community initiatives and policy commitments;
 - The Residents' Survey 2015 which was conducted during the summer 2015; and
 - The financial and policy drivers likely to impact the Council in the short to medium term.
12. The Plan is divided into three sections;
 - Customers – focussing on improved customer service and how we work to make our communities more resilient, healthy and engaged.
 - Place – focussing on growth and prosperity, how we deliver sustainable new housing and infrastructure, and how we keep the district clean and green.
 - Value for Money – here, following the recent Council decision to adopt a strategy for the development of shared services, the focus is on how the Council will deliver its savings, in part by the integration of the staff and services of Lewes and Eastbourne Councils.

Consultation and engagement on the draft Council Plan 2016-2020

13. Engagement with the residents and other stakeholders of the district has been an important part of the development of the Plan.
14. Initial consultation was through a Residents' Survey, undertaken over the summer period which took account of the views of nearly 1,000 local residents. This independently run survey used an LGA approved research methodology based on a weighted sample of residents to ensure the demographics and make-up of the District (in terms of age, gender, ethnicity and electoral ward) was reflected. The survey provided a statistically robust evidence base on which to develop the Plan, ensuring it reflects the views, priorities and aspirations of local people. The full results of the Residents' Survey have been provided previously to all Members, and are published on the Council's website.

15. As well as the Residents Survey, other methods of engagement have been adopted to gain feedback from partners and other stakeholders that will help inform the development of the Plan. Staff Forums have been held to enable staff to understand and comment on the emerging Plan. In addition, the draft Plan is currently published on the Council's website and residents and key partner organisations (as listed in Appendix B) have been invited to comment. Comments and feedback will be welcomed up until the report is considered by Cabinet on 8 February 2016.
16. Any feedback received from residents, partners and other stakeholders will be provided in the form of a written update to the report which will be circulated at the meeting.
17. The Scrutiny Committee considered the draft Plan at its meeting on 14th January 2016.

Adoption and Delivery of the Council Plan

18. Following adoption by Members, the final Council Plan will be published on the Council website. Although a four year plan, it is considered a dynamic document that will develop over time and therefore will be subject to annual review and refresh, with appropriate consultation, throughout its lifespan.
19. Progress against key success measures and project deliverables contained within the document will be reported to Members on a regular basis, as part of the council's usual performance management arrangements.

Financial Appraisal

20. The Council Plan has been drafted in light of current and planned projects and work programmes. It is consistent with the Medium Term Financial Strategy and draft 2016/17 budgets which Cabinet are being asked to consider elsewhere on this Agenda. Any significant implications arising from the Council Plan consultation or budget proposals will be taken into consideration in the final draft of the Plan which will be reported to Council at its meeting in February 2016 when the final 2016/17 budget is set.

Legal Implications

21. Cabinet may formulate the Council Plan but only full Council may adopt it; regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) Regulations 2000 refers.
22. In formulating the Plan, Cabinet may choose whether to have regard to any recommendations submitted by Scrutiny Committee in relation to the Plan.
23. Scrutiny Committee is entitled to make its own recommendations direct to full Council.

Risk Management Implications

24. The risk management implications of individual decisions relating to the projects and initiatives covered in this report will be addressed as part of the planning and delivery of those individual projects.

Equality Analysis

25. Equality Analyses will be undertaken in relation to the individual projects which make up the Council Plan, and therefore it is not considered necessary to undertake an overarching analysis of the Plan as a whole.

Background Papers

Residents Survey report available online at <http://www.lewes.gov.uk/council/24056.asp>

Appendices

Appendix A – The draft Council Plan 2016 – 2020

Appendix B – Key partner organisations invited to give feedback