

Minute extract from Scrutiny Committee meeting – 14th January 2016

1. The Council Plan 2016-2020

The Head of Business Strategy and Performance explained that the public consultation period for the Draft Council Plan was to end on 8 February 2016. She also explained that the purpose of the Council Plan was to provide information to the public about both continuing and new projects that the Council would be undertaking for the next four years.

The Committee considered Report No 13/16. The Committee thanked Officers for their work on the Draft Council Plan, and commented that the Plan was easy to read and accessible to the public. . The Plan followed the format previously established, but Committee members believed the format needed revision and expressed the following views:

- That the time allocated for public consultation had been shorter than would be desirable,
- That data and statistics in the Plan should show where they were sourced.
- That the projects included in the Council Plan, where the Council would be working in partnership but are not the lead agency for the work, should highlight the other organisations involved.
- There was concern that the plan included outcomes which were beyond the scope of LDC to achieve.
- That the Plan should explain how the commitments and targets would be monitored.
- That the information included relating to the New Homes Project should be re worked, to reflect the position of the Project at the time of publishing.
- That greater emphasis given to the Council's role in delivering environmental and cultural projects and initiatives.
- That projects should, where appropriate, be more inclusive (whilst acknowledging the specific needs of, say, older people, or rural areas)
- With regard to community safety, that it be made clear that outcomes are achieved in partnership with the Police and others.
- That a greater emphasis be given to our work in partnership with Wave Leisure and other health partners.
- That reference be made to the Community Infrastructure Levy and how it is used to support infrastructure development.
- That greater emphasis be given to business support, job creation and apprenticeships, and that this should not just focus on Newhaven.
- That it be made clearer that our current customer service performance

requires improvement, particularly regarding telephony

Resolved:

- i.** That Report No 13/16 relating to the Draft Council Plan 2016-2020 be noted;
- ii.** That the feedback received from the consultation with the public and partner organisations relating to the Draft Council Plan 2016-2020 be noted; and
- iii.** That the Draft Council Plan 2016-2020 be recommended to Council, subject to the amendments proposed by the Committee.

The Results of Stakeholder Consultation on the Council Plan 2016 - 2020

The public and stakeholder consultation exercise resulted in comments from 38 individuals and 15 organisations, including a number of parish councils, local public bodies and lobby groups. The following sets out the primary themes which emerged from the consultation and a summary of the subsequent revisions made to the final draft of the Council Plan (shown at Appendix A).

Themes

Resilient, healthy and engaged communities

- Need to recognise the need to engage more and work with town and parish councils. **10 comments**
- Agree/strongly agree that this section of the Plan meets the priorities of people in the district. **9 comments**
- There must be good engagement with residents. **5 comments**
- Resilient, engaged and healthy communities section should include reference to the link between wellbeing and local cultural/arts activities. **3 comments** (from relevant organisations)

Revisions to the Plan (Pages 4, 5 and 6)

Revisions to the plan include increased emphasis on multi-agency/partnership working around age-related health issues, specifically those affecting coastal and rural areas. The link between wellbeing and culture is acknowledged. Further revisions highlight the importance of partnership working.

Improved customer service

- General agreement with suggested improvements to customer service. **10 comments**
- Positive experiences of LDC frontline services. **2 comments**
- Performance measures should focus on outcomes for residents. **2 comments**
- Move to more use of online services should not mean traditional customer service channels are removed (for customers/residents who do not use the internet as their primary means of communication/doing business). **2 comments**

Revisions to the Plan (Page 7)

Minor revisions to the Plan to include revised measures of success in relation to user satisfaction with the website and satisfaction with the quality of services received.

Delivering sustainable new housing and infrastructure

- Against developing on the site at Hollycroft, East Chiltington. The site is not suitable. **6 Comments**
- There is not enough infrastructure and services to support development in East Chiltington. **3 comments**
- Agree/strongly agree with this priority. **6 comments**
- Investment into A259 is needed. **3 comments**
- More affordable housing is needed for local people, particularly young people. **4 comments**

- Welcome the pause in the New Homes Project. Take the New Homes project out of the plan. **4 comments**
- Against development of The Buckle. **4 comments**
- The Lewes-Uckfield line is not needed. **2 comments**
- There has been poor consultation over the New Homes project proposals. **2 comments**
- Affordable housing should include social housing. **3 comments**
- Need more affordable housing for older people. **2 comments**
- Need clarity over the definition of affordable housing. **2 comments**
- Affordable housing needs to be genuinely affordable. **2 comments**
- Rather than affordable housing, people need fair rents in secure housing. **2 comments**

Revisions to the Plan (Page 8)

Revisions to the plan include clarity around some of the data and terminology used (mainly re affordable homes), greater emphasis on the delivery of strategic projects in partnership with others and revisions that reflect the current status of the New Homes project.

Growth and prosperity

- Agree/strongly agree with this priority. **9 comments**
- There should be greater emphasis of cultural activity under this theme – adding to quality of life, supporting inward investment, recruitment and retention. **4 comments** (from relevant organisations)
- Strongly oppose inclusion of reference additional runway at Gatwick. **6 comments**
- The Plan should include recognition of the cultural assets in the district. **2 comments** (from relevant organisations)
- The Plan should recognise the importance of tourism to the district. **2 comments**
- Creative industries should be recognised as a “key sector” as Lewes District has the highest concentration of registered creative industries in the county. **2 comments** (from relevant organisations)
- More investment in Seaford, including commercial space. **4 comments**
- Against widening of the A27. **3 comments**
- Against the North Street Quarter development. **2 comments**
- Need more regeneration/investment in Newhaven town centre. **2 comments**
- Welcome aims around tourism. **2 comments**
- Need investment in busses as well as rail. **2 comments**

Revisions to the Plan (Page 9)

Revisions to the Plan include greater emphasis on the importance of tourism and culture to local prosperity, health and wellbeing. This includes working in partnership with a range of cultural partners to encourage a strong tourism brand for the district. Additional measures of success have been included.

Clean and green district

- General support for the planned improvements to waste and recycling services/increased emphasis on recycling. **10 comments**

- Agree with this priority. **7 comments**
- Seaford household waste and recycling site should open more days per week. **4 comments**
- Keep weekly refuse collections. **3 comments**
- More street cleaning is needed. **2 comments**
- Support the aims around conserving and protecting the environment. **2 comments**
- Do not want to lose current recycling facilities (concern that the new Materials Recovery Facility might mean closure of recycling sites). **2 comments**
- Litter in Lewes town is a problem. **2 comments**

Revisions to the Plan (Page 10)

Revisions to the Plan include clarification in connection with the provision of new waste and recycling facilities, highlighting the importance of the Council's role in managing and protecting the natural environment and greater emphasis on how we work with town and parish councils to achieve this.

Delivering sustainable services

- Agree with this priority. **8 comments**
- Merger with Eastbourne to save money is a good idea. **2 comments**
- Need more detail on how the transformation programme would work, particularly around planning/need to retain planning services locally **3 comments**

Revisions to the Plan (Page 11)

Revisions to the Plan reflect the current position and communication strategy relating to the Joint Transformation Programme. Specific commitments from this important programme and a revised measure of success have been included.

General comments

- More health centre provision is needed on the coast. **6 comments**
- Would like to see more detail about the plans. **5 comments**
- Supportive of the Plan in general. **4 comments**
- The Plan needs to do more to address the needs of the most vulnerable people. **2 comments**

Revisions to the Plan

Mainly these comments have been addressed above. Narrative included in the introduction section explains that more detailed project/business plans exist which sets out specific milestones and targets. Progress over the short to medium term will be monitored through the Council's usual performance/project management arrangements. The measures of success used across the Plan have been reviewed and revised to ensure they are meaningful, relevant and measurable.