

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	3rd March 2014
	Cabinet	5th March 2014
	Council	27th March 2014
Subject:	Draft Council Plan 2014 – 2017	
Report Of:	Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	
Wards Affected:	All	
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework: Yes
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Appendices:	1. Draft Council Plan 2014 – 2017	
	2. Performance Measures	

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report presents the second updated draft of the Council Plan for 2014 – 2017 for comments and recommendations. The Council Plan details the priorities and plans for delivery, for the Council over the next three years (Appendix 1) and the performance measures set against the proposed plan (Appendix 2)

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 **Overview and Scrutiny Committee** is asked to consider the information contained in the report and make any recommendations it considers appropriate to the Cabinet.

- 2.2 **Cabinet** is asked to **RESOLVE:-**

- (1) to endorse the draft Council Plan for 2014-17; and
- (2) to **RECOMMEND** that Council approves and adopts the draft Council Plan for 2014-17.

- 2.3 **Council** is asked to **RESOLVE** that the draft Council Plan for 2014-17 be adopted.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 The Council Plan sets out how Gloucester City Council intends to deliver its role in improving, developing and promoting the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of communities in the City over the next three years. It will replace the previous Council Plan, which covers the period 2011 – 2014.

- 3.2 The administration working with officers have driven the process to confirm the priorities for the Council going forward. The review of the existing Corporate Plan 2011 – 2014 started back in May 2013 with facilitated discussion and relevant officer input.
- 3.3 Reference was made to other key strategic documents adopted by the Council in the revision of existing priorities. The Council Plan complements the City Vision (sustainable community strategy) and fully supports the vision and strategic priorities of the Gloucester Partnership.
- 3.4 A task and finish group was set up to progress and monitor the process associated with the review of the existing Council Plan. This group consists of Cabinet members and Council officers and has met four times between May 2013 and December 2013. Wider opportunities have been made available for input from members of the administration.
- 3.5 During September 2013 all City Council staff had the opportunity to attend sessions to look at the draft objectives as formulated by members and GLT. Workshops were undertaken to help identify how we will progress and achieve against the new objectives. This helped to inform the Key Actions & Projects section of the Council Plan as well as helping staff understand what we are working towards over the next few years.

3.6 The key priorities identified for the next three years are:

- **Prosperity** Growing Gloucester's economy
- **People** Working with our communities
- **Place** Pride in our City & Improving our environment
- **Performance** Maintaining the Council's viability

These priorities complement and align themselves with the City Vision and support the strategic priorities of the Gloucester Partnership.

- 3.7 The plan retains a strong emphasis on economic development and regeneration as this is an ongoing task and there are key projects to continue. Resources will be allocated to development in these areas. There is a strong focus on performance and financial viability where this will underpin progress of key projects and development of services. We have also focused on how we work with our communities actively supporting and assisting communities to help themselves. We are also keen to link the physical and social regeneration objectives to maximise the opportunities presented in addressing social inequality in the City.
- 3.8 The Council will therefore be directing its resources towards achieving these priorities, which include allocation of money, staff, assets and work done with our partners. Some of the priorities are shared with partners and will not be dependent upon financial contribution from the Council.
- 3.9 Initial feedback from the peer challenge team stresses the importance of this; ensuring that our priorities are adequately resourced in financial and staff terms and that the Council formally and practically disinvests from that which is not a priority.

- 3.10 The key activities and projects in the Council Plan inform the Council's business plans and individual staff appraisals.
- 3.11 Mindful of Members' wishes in past years, the presentation of this report to Overview and Scrutiny has been carefully timed in order that the draft plan is at sufficient stage of development to enable the committee to make meaningful comment, whilst there is both time and scope for members to make comments and for the Cabinet to reflect on them.

4.0 Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 The prioritisation has involved the consideration of many different alternatives, however these are the main priorities for the City and the Council.

5.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 5.1 To agree the corporate objectives for the City for the period 2014 – 2017.

6.0 Future Work and Conclusions

- 6.1 Communicating the plan internally and externally will be essential to inform Councillors, staff, partners and the wider community of the future direction of the Council.
- 6.2 During February 2014 all services will have the opportunity to attend workshops to develop their service Business Plans and ensure that they are aligned with corporate priorities.
- 6.3 Overview and Scrutiny Committee comments will be considered before Cabinet makes final proposals on the document. This will then go to Council in March and this Committee may consider it again if it wishes.
- 6.4 Development of monitoring against the Council Plan is currently underway with officers and Members. The plan will be reviewed annually aligned with the budget setting process.
- 6.5 There are gaps in the numerical targets and these are currently being developed and Members' comments are welcomed.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 Although there are no specific financial implications in this report, the Council's Money Plan will reflect the resources required to deliver the key priorities in the Council Plan.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

8.0 Legal Implications

8.1 Under the Constitution, the Council Plan forms part of the Council's Policy Framework.

(Legal Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

9.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

9.1 Risks presented by the new Council Plan will be considered as part of the Council's risk registers, both at a corporate and service level enabling the capture of all associated risks and their management and mitigation.

10.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):

10.1 Impact will be assessed at time of finalisation of each area of the Council Plan to ensure compliance with the Public sector equality duty and general duties of the Equality Act 2010.

11.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

11.1 The building of a safe, strong and healthy community is one of the key aims of our proposed plan. Community safety implications will be taken into account in all our activities.

Sustainability

11.2 Sustainability principles underpin our activities and will be key components of the actions in the Council Plan.

Staffing & Trade Union

11.3 There are no direct staffing implications arising from the report.

Background Documents:

Documents used in the review of existing Corporate Plan:

- City Vision
- Joint Core Strategy
- City Plan
- Health and Wellbeing strategy
- Budget Information