

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Special Council	8 April 2014
Subject:	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	

FOR GENERAL RELEASE.

NOTE: The special circumstances for non-compliance with Access to Information Rule 5 and Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) (items not considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least five days in advance of the meeting) were to allow for the Appendix to the report to be desktop published.

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report presents the Council Plan for 2014 – 2017 for comments and further recommendations, with a view to the final version being considered by full council following the May 2014 elections. The Council Plan details the priorities and plans for delivery, for the Council over the next three years (Appendix 1).

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 **Council** is asked to **RESOLVE** that the latest draft of the Council Plan for 2014-17 be noted and that a final version be considered by Full Council, following the elections in May 2014.

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 identify the priorities for the Council up to 2017. The review of the existing Corporate Plan started in May 2013 with facilitated discussions 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 has been informed by and is consistent with the City Vision adopted by the Gloucester Partnership (made up of key partners in the city) on which major consultation with residents took place.

- 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 through the Overview and Scrutiny process.
- 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 the Senior Management Team. Workshops were undertaken to help identify how progress and achievements will be measured against the new objectives. This helped to inform the Key Actions & Projects section of the plan, as well as helping staff understand what the Council is 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** Sound finances and strong performance
- 3.7 Many of the themes in the Council Plan are consistent with the 2011-14 document, reflecting the long-term nature of many of the aspirations which the Council is working towards. 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. The plan is also focused on how the Council works with local communities, actively supporting and assisting communities to help themselves. The need to link the physical and social regeneration objectives to maximise the opportunities presented in addressing social inequality in the City is also reflected – something which was identified as being desirable during the Council's recent Peer Challenge.
- 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 solely 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 had been carefully timed in order that the draft plan was at sufficient stage of development to enable the committee to make meaningful comment, enabling Members to make comments and for the Cabinet to reflect on them. Wherever possible, the document has been amended to take account of the comments made at Overview and Scrutiny.

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 had 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 were considered before Cabinet made final proposals on the document, ready for Council in March.

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.

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