

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Council	Date:	17 th July 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 late amendments to the appendix.

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report presents the final 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).

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Council is asked to **RESOLVE** that the final draft of the Council Plan for 2014-17 be approved and 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 Over the last few months the administration, working with officers, has 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 consisted of cabinet members and council officers and 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** – Creating pride in our city and improving our environment
 - **Performance** – Sound finances and strong performance

As stated in 3.3, 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 dependant 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 Committee was carefully timed in order that the draft plan was at sufficient stage of development to enable comments to be collated and used to inform the plan.

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 All service Business Plans will be reviewed against the Council Plan to ensure that delivery is on track and resourced.

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 Corporate 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