

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: 17 October 2023	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Fairer, Greener, Safer: Southwark Annual Performance Report 2022-23	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
Cabinet Member:		Councillor Kieron Williams, Leader of the Council	

FOREWORD – COUNCILLOR KIERON WILLIAMS, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

This report sets out the remarkable achievements of the council and our partners for the last year, against our four year council delivery plan. Many of the things we have achieved would not have been possible without the close support of others, working in partnership, whether the health service, local voluntary groups and residents’ organisations. I want to thank all those who have been involved in supporting the delivery of this long list of accomplishments over the last 12 months.

We also cannot escape the fact that residents are facing unprecedented challenges; rising bills and public services under strain from ongoing government funding cuts. Nonetheless, we have worked together to respond to these challenges. In one year we launched a comprehensive cost-of-living package for residents funded through a special cost-of-living fund. By spring this year, we had distributed cost of living support worth over £30m to more than 100,000 local people – including free meals for more than fifteen thousand children attending Southwark schools on every day of every school holiday period. We worked with voluntary sector partners to open more than 40 warm spaces. We also provided social care to 5,190 older and vulnerable residents, supported 70 rough sleepers into long-term homes, and looked after 635 children over the course of the year.

While supporting those in need is our absolute priority, we must also keep our borough clean, green and safe; and always have one eye on the future. In 2022/23 we planted 8,092 trees, developed our Streets for People initiative to improve air quality and reduce car use, and took big steps forward in reducing our carbon emissions and directly addressing the climate emergency. Our climate action strategy and plan was assessed among the top plans in the UK. We successfully lobbied Transport for London to protect our bus routes, and launched the Southwark Land Commission to look at how we can identify and protect more land for public good.

As London’s largest council housing landlord, Southwark manages 52,000 homes on behalf of our tenants and leaseholders, about a third of the homes in

the borough. It is a huge privilege to support so many of our residents, with this fundamental need, and this year we have continued to push forward with our efforts to build more council homes with almost 700 new council homes granted planning permission in 2022/23. We are building more homes than ever from a strong track record in delivery – in 2021 one third of all council homes were built here in our borough.

Our young people continue to shine, with the most recent summer GCSE results showing their achievements positively bucking national trends. Over 9 in 10 our schools judged good or outstanding. We were proud to be rated ‘Good’ for our Children’s Services in our last Ofsted in September 2022, where we were told that children are at the heart of practice in Southwark and children’s lives are improved as a result of our impact.

This summer saw the Council take direct control of leisure services and centres across our borough. We welcomed new staff into the Council and our new service will give residents and Southwark Leisure members better choices to access leisure and wider health opportunities as a result of being under one Council roof.

This was also the year we launched Southwark 2030 – our bold campaign to involve everyone in the borough in designing how we want Southwark to look and feel in the future. This work has continued throughout 2023, and we look forward to sharing our new shared borough vision and missions with you in the coming months.

There are many more achievements detailed in this report which demonstrate the council’s and our community’s clear commitment to improving our borough and supporting residents to live happy, healthy and fulfilling lives. We look forward to what we can continue to achieve together in the coming years.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That cabinet notes the council’s performance over 2022/23 and the progress highlighted as set out in Appendix 1.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Cabinet approved the Fairer, Greener, Safer Southwark - Council Delivery Plan 2022-26 in September 2022. The plan sets out the programme of work that the council will achieve over the period 2022-2026. In agreeing the Council Delivery Plan Cabinet agreed to produce an annual performance report on delivery of progress of the plan.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3. The Council Delivery Plan is a clear statement to the residents, businesses, local voluntary/community sector organisations and other stakeholders of that programme and how the council will deliver a fairer, green and safer borough for all in Southwark. It is grouped around priority

themes which reflect the topics that the people of Southwark said were most important to them. Alongside transforming our borough which focuses on creating a people powered borough, closing the gap in life chances and delivering thriving and sustainable neighbourhoods which are together being developed alongside Southwark 2030 and underpin all we do, the themes are:

- A thriving and inclusive economy
 - A healthy environment
 - Quality, affordable homes
 - Keeping you safe
 - Investing in communities
 - Supporting families.
4. The Council Delivery Plan contains a range of commitments which the Council will deliver up to 2025/6.
 5. The council's website is the primary channel of communication, with updates on performance and service delivery also provided through our regular e-newsletters, social media channels and through Southwark Life magazine.
 6. The Council Delivery Plan and the annual performance report on delivery on the priority themes, measures and milestones guides our budget planning. Separate capital and revenue budget monitoring reports are produced and presented to Cabinet each quarter as part of budget management.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement, including equalities

7. The purpose of this report is for Cabinet to note delivery of progress on the Council Delivery Plan 2022-26. No specific equality analysis has been undertaken on this report and there are no impacts arising from the report itself.
8. Future decisions made on the basis of the performance highlighted in this report may require further equality analysis to be undertaken and more detailed consideration of the impact on local people and communities as appropriate.
9. The council will give due consideration to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) as a positive duty to consider the promotion of equality throughout the delivery of the Council Delivery Plan. Information will also be published to show how we implement the PSED in our work and performance.

Health impact statement

10. The purpose of this report is for Cabinet to note delivery of progress on the Council Delivery Plan 2022-26. The report highlights delivery against a number of commitments that support residents to live happy, healthy and fulfilling lives.

Climate change implications

11. The purpose of this report is for Cabinet to note delivery of progress on the Council Delivery Plan 2022-26. The plan has numerous commitments that will positively impact on the council's climate change policy agenda and has several very specific commitments in relation to the reduction of carbon emissions and climate change mitigation, such as planting 10,000 trees, the detail of which is set out in a more detailed Climate Action Plan, reported to Cabinet separately.

Resource implications

12. There are no immediate resource implications arising from this report. Any additional funding required as a result of decisions following this report will be subject to financial appraisal and assessed and reported through the council's budget setting process.

Legal implications

13. There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report. Any decisions or actions required to progress delivery of the Council Delivery Plan will be subject to the council's legal and governance procedures.

Consultation

14. The purpose of this report is for Cabinet to note delivery of progress on the Council Delivery Plan 2022-26.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance

15. In the past local authorities were subject to various duties relating to the monitoring of performance. This regime has now largely been abolished, firstly by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and subsequently the Localism Act 2011.
16. However, a local authority is still under a general duty of best value to "make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness". The Council Delivery Plan is one of the ways the council can demonstrate that it is achieving this requirement.

17. Cabinet is reminded that in the exercise of all its functions it must have due regard under section 149 Equality Act 2010 to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct, (b) to advance equality of opportunity and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. Reference is made in the community impact section above to the positive duty to consider the promotion of equality throughout the delivery of the Council Delivery Plan and that more detailed consideration of the impact on local people and communities will be provided as appropriate when decisions are made arising from the plan.

Strategic Director of Finance

18. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Council Delivery Plan Annual Performance Report 2022-23

AUDIT TRAIL

Cabinet Member	Councillor Kieron Williams, Leader of the Council	
Lead Officer	Althea Loderick, Chief Executive	
Report Author	Stephen Gaskell, Assistant Chief Executive – Strategy and Communities Tricia Boahene, Head of Policy, Partnerships and Performance	
Version	Final	
Dated	05 October 2023	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director, Finance	N/A	N/A
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	05 October 2023	