

<b>Item No.</b> 10.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 10 December 2013	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Cabinet
<b>Report title:</b>		Fairer Future Interim Performance Report 2013 – 2014	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>		Councillor Peter John, Leader of the Council	

## **FOREWORD - COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

When I think of our borough of Southwark, I think of potential. It is vibrant and diverse and full of life, rich in history and yet rooted in the future. Take a walk through our wards and you will be astonished at how quickly the architecture and communities shift and change. From the workers busily moving through London Bridge to the bustle of Peckham and Camberwell to the transformations happening in Elephant and Castle – and the many areas in between - there is nowhere else like it.

We are so lucky that our borough can offer its residents unparalleled opportunities but this is worthless if only a select few can access them. That is why, in 2010, we promised that everyone in Southwark, no matter their background, would have the opportunity to fulfil their potential. Our vision was for a Fairer Future for All and we made 10 promises to our people which set out how we proposed to make this a reality. This report is our chance to let you know how the council has met those Fairer Future promises, not only in the last six months but since we first made them.

Throughout the last three years, we have been very mindful of our duty to spend every penny as if it came from our own purses and treat every resident as if they were our own parent, child or loved one. Even within these difficult times, we have still sought to protect our most vulnerable residents and treat all people within Southwark with dignity and fairness.

Our work has been happening in the shadow of the financial challenges affecting everyone so deeply but we have tried very hard not to let these challenges limit the scope of what we believe can be achieved for our residents. We have tried to think big and think long-term, hence decisions to protect libraries, our commitment to the building of 11,000 new homes and our commitment to the London Living Wage.

These are not easy times but I am proud to lead a council that puts its residents at the heart of decision-making. I would like to thank all the staff, partners and the residents themselves who make our borough what it is.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That cabinet,

1. Notes progress in the first half of 2013/14 against the ten fairer future promises and portfolio performance objectives in the council plan.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. On 6 July 2011 council assembly approved a new council plan. This set out how the council would work to achieve its Fairer Future for All vision in an environment of significantly reduced funding to the council and the wider public sector. Ten fairer future promises were committed to, with a further set of objectives outlined in performance schedules for each cabinet member portfolio.
3. At the core of the council plan were the council's ten Fairer Future promises. By focusing on ten key promises we recognised that in times of reduced funding to local government from central government, we needed to focus our resources on the areas where we can achieve the maximum impact to help meet our vision.
4. The ten Fairer Future promises are:

**Promise 1 Value for money** - "Provide improved value for money and keep council tax increases below inflation"

**Promise 2 A safer borough** - "Work with residents and the police to make the borough safer for all by cracking down on antisocial behaviour and implementing our new violent crime strategy"

**Promise 3 Warm, dry safe homes** - "Deliver the first three years of our five year plan to make every council home warm, dry and safe".

**Promise 4 Improved customer service** - "Improve our customer service with more online services, including delivery of a better housing repairs service, independently verified by tenants".

**Promise 5 Improved educational attainment** - "Introduce free healthy school meals for all primary school pupils, and champion improved educational attainment for our borough's children".

**Promise 6 Support vulnerable people** - "Support vulnerable people to live independent, safe and healthy lives by giving them more choice and control over their care".

**Promise 7 Encourage healthy lifestyles** - "Encourage healthy lifestyles by transforming Burgess Park, opening a new swimming pool at Elephant and Castle and awarding £2m to local projects to leave a lasting Olympic legacy".

**Promise 8 Invest in libraries** - "Open Canada Water library in autumn 2011, open a library in Camberwell and conduct a thorough review of the library service".

**Promise 9 Homes, jobs and growth** - "Bring the full benefits and opportunities of regeneration to all Southwark's residents and build new family homes on the Aylesbury Estate and at Elephant and Castle".

**Promise 10 Cleaner, greener Southwark** - "Double recycling rates from 20 per cent to 40 per cent by 2014 and keep our streets clean".

5. Over 2010/11 a number of changes were made to the performance monitoring and reporting requirements of the council by central government, including abolition of the national indicator set and an end of requirement for local area

agreements. The council plan was therefore designed specifically to reflect local priorities and to use local accountability as the key driver of improvement in the council's performance.

6. Since the council plan's adoption, the council's performance has been reported through a series of interim and annual performance reports. The last of these, the Fairer Future Annual Performance Report was presented to council assembly in July 2013 and it noted progress made over 2012/13, the second year of the council plan.
7. The council has continued to monitor performance against the council plan's ten promises and cabinet member performance objectives during 2013/14, Performance data reviewed in the first quarter of this year was published on the council's website as part of our fairer future principle of being open, honest and accountable.

### **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

8. This interim performance report and cabinet performance schedules (see Appendices 1 and 2) provides a summary of progress over the first six months of 2013/14, against the ten fairer future promises and cabinet member performance objectives, agreed in the council plan and in subsequent annual performance reports to council. It outlines some of key the things we've delivered in the first six months of 2013/14 and over the life of the plan.
9. Good progress has been maintained on all the fairer future promises in the first half of 2013/14. This is outlined in full in Appendices 1 & 2.
10. Key achievements over the first six months of 2013/14 include:
  - No increase in council tax. We were able to make sure that funding continued to go to those who need it most, targeting support for the low paid, children, and more vulnerable within the community.
  - Tackling crime. In the last three years violent crime fell by 25 per cent with 1,070 fewer offences of violence with injury and 40 per cent fewer of the most serious violent crimes.
  - Investing in housing. Since April 2011, we have spent £123m on improvements to our council housing stock. This has included completion of major works at a number of estates, as well as street properties in Camberwell.
  - Our customer service is improving. In June 2013 we brought our customer service in-house, making a big difference to the way in which we serve our residents and freeing up £3 million this year to be reinvested. Telephone and online services at the new contact centre at Queens Road Peckham and the face to face services in Bermondsey, Peckham and Walworth are improving.
  - Raising attainment levels. Southwark's flagship policy of providing every primary school aged child daily with a free healthy school meal has a 92 per cent take up rate across children in reception to year 4 classes. Since

September the policy has been extended, with year 5 and 6 pupils now also benefitting from a nutritious free lunch.

- Helping more people live independent lives. Since 2010, we have reduced the charge for meals on wheels by 50 per cent and helped more people with learning disabilities to live independently in settled accommodation. We are also one of the boroughs with the largest number of people using personal budgets in the country. 94 per cent of eligible users now have a personal budget. It means that nearly all the people we work with are choosing support that helps them feel fulfilled, independent and in control of their own care.
- Improving the environment. We maintain some of the most beautiful parks in London, with 17 retaining green flag status. Many now offer outdoor gyms and are more widely used by residents. Burgess Park has been transformed and we continue to make real investment in our leisure centres across the borough. Our recycling rate, one of the most improved in London, has reached 37 per cent this year and we expect it to improve.
- Improved libraries services. After consulting with residents we were able to avoid the closure of any of our libraries. We now have over 50 volunteers taking part in our libraries volunteering programmes, with participants telling us that it helps them be more connected to their communities. By the end of September 2013 Canada Water Library received over 830,000 visits and is on track to pass the one million mark by the end of this year.
- Significant progress on major regeneration. The regeneration of the Aylesbury has continued, with the construction of over 320 new homes. At the Elephant and Castle, the construction of the residential developments 'One the Elephant' and Trafalgar Place has started, with the demolition of the former Heygate Estate underway. All of the tenants from the former Heygate estate have been re-housed in the borough and offered the right to return to the new homes that will be built.

### **Community impact statement**

11. The purpose of this report is for cabinet to note progress in the second quarter of 2013/14 against the promises and objectives agreed in the Council Plan and the 2011/12 and 2012/13 Council Plan Annual Performance Reports. No specific equality analysis has been undertaken on this report on performance as there are no impacts arising from the report itself.
12. Future decisions made on the basis of the performance highlighted by this report may require equality analysis to be undertaken and more detailed consideration of the impact on local people and communities as appropriate. The Forum for Equalities and Human Rights and Southwark's Equality and Human Rights Panel were engaged in the council's equality objectives and its feedback was considered in development of the equality objectives for 2013/14 that are set out in this report.

## Financial implications

13. There are no immediate resource implications arising from this report. Any additional funding required will be subject to financial appraisal and reported through the council's budget setting process.

## SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

### Director of Legal Services

14. It was previously a requirement for local authorities to publish a best value performance plan. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 removed the powers of the Secretary of State to specify performance indicators and standards for local authorities, the duty on authorities to meet such standards and to publish best value performance plans.
15. 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 Plan is one of the ways the council can demonstrate that it is achieving this requirement.
16. No specific equality analysis has been undertaken for this report as there are no impacts on the community arising from the report itself but cabinet is reminded of the requirement to have due regard to the public sector equality duty set out in s.149 Equality Act 2010 in its future deliberations and conclusion.

### Strategic Director for Finance and Corporate Services (FC13/082)

17. The strategic director of finance and corporate services notes that there are no immediate resource implications arising from this report. Any additional resources required in the future will need to be financially appraised and their approval will be subject to the council's policies and procedures.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Council Plan Annual Performance Report 2012/13	<a href="http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200342/council_plan">http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200342/council_plan</a>	Chima Amiaka– chima.amiaka@southwark.gov.uk
<b>Link</b> <a href="http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200342/council_plan">http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200342/council_plan</a>		
Council Plan 2011-14	<a href="http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200342/council_plan">http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200342/council_plan</a>	Chima Amiaka– chima.amiaka@southwark.gov.uk
<b>Link</b> <a href="http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200342/council_plan">http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200342/council_plan</a>		

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Fairer Future Interim Performance Report 2013/14
Appendix 2	Quarter 2, 2013/14 Council Plan Cabinet Member Performance Schedules

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Peter John, Leader of the Council	
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Eleanor Kelly, Chief Executive	
<b>Report Author</b>	Chima Amiaka, Senior Strategy Officer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	28 November 2013	
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<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Director of Legal Services	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	Yes	Yes
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	28 November 2013	