

Item No. 9.	Classification: Open	Date: 10 February 2015	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Council Plan 2014/15 - 2017/18	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
Cabinet Member:		Councillor Peter John, Leader of the Council	

FOREWORD FROM COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Last May we had the privilege of being elected to continue delivering a Fairer Future for Southwark over the next four years. We have listened to your priorities and have committed to an ambitious new set of promises and commitments that reflect the needs of our residents. The building of 11,000 new council homes, free swim and gym use for our residents and guaranteed education, employment or training for every 18-year-old reflect our continued commitment to equality and fairness valuing all residents in the borough.

Unfortunately in 2015/16 we face the third highest cut of spending power per household in the country, therefore more tough decisions about how we spend money lie ahead. However government's cuts will not mean we are less ambitious in creating a borough where everyone has opportunity to reach their own potential. We are realistic about the challenges ahead and will continue to do more with less and look for innovative ways of investing in the things that matter most to our residents. We will carry on delivering free healthy school meals for every primary school child, we will finish our warm dry and safe programme for the borough's council homes and we will keep working to create jobs in apprenticeships that provide local residents with the better opportunities of learning, living and working in Southwark.

In 2015 we are increasing our efforts to make the borough healthier, with investment in cycling, parks and leisure and free fruit every day for primary school children. We are rolling out our ethical care charter and improving the quality of homecare so that older people can lead independent lives for longer. We are also delivering on our commitment to make Southwark an age friendly borough, so that whatever your age you can get the best from living in the borough.

The council can only make all of this a success with the work, help and support of people and other organisations in the borough. I'd like to thank all of you who give your time, energy and talents to making our borough what it is. I'd like to thank all our partners, faith groups, sports clubs, businesses and business organisations, volunteers, community leaders, charities, all organisations working to support the young, elderly or vulnerable and those who help to look after their local areas, including green spaces.

Thank you all for what you do to make Southwark the exciting and diverse borough that it is and a place that we can all be proud to call home. We look forward to working with so many of you as we continue to deliver a fairer future for all.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That cabinet:

1. Recommends the proposed Council Plan 2014/15 – 2017/18 for agreement by Council Assembly on 25 February 2015.
2. Agrees to the proposed Council Plan 2014/15 – 2017/18.
3. Agrees detailed performance schedules for Council Plan based on six priority themes.
4. Agrees to the proposed arrangements for monitoring and reporting on progress against the Council Plan 2014/15 - 2017/18 as noted in paragraphs 13 to 15.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

5. The Council Plan is Southwark Council's (the council's) overarching business plan setting out the programme of work that the council will achieve over the period 2014/15 to 2017/18. It 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 future for all in Southwark.
6. This Council Plan covering the period from 2014/15-2017/18 builds on the achievements of the organisation's previous Council Plan, which included key commitments such as delivering free school meals to all primary school children, delivering new affordable homes through our regeneration programmes and halving the cost of meals on wheels.
7. Our continued vision is for a fairer future for all in Southwark. This was agreed by cabinet in July 2014 expressed through a set of ten "fairer future promises" that are at the heart of what we want to achieve for Southwark over the next four years.
8. This Council Plan has been developed in the context of further substantial reductions in from the grant received from central government. This grant along with council tax and other income, makes up the resources to fund the services that we deliver to residents and businesses of Southwark. Despite these funding reductions from central government the council will continue to prioritise how it spends its money, keep our commitment to keep council tax low and ensure we provide value for money, quality services.
9. Since May 2010, in the light of unprecedented reductions in resources from government, the council has had to make very tough decisions about the allocation of our spending, whilst still being committed to delivery of the fairer future programme of business. The council has continued to listen to the community and in doing so has prioritised front line services and, reduced our spending on back office functions. We will continue to modernise the way the council works, retaining the focus on being more efficient and a more effective partner with other organisations to ensure a fairer future for all.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

The Council Plan

10. The Council Plan 2014/15-2017/18 includes:
 - A vision for a fairer future for all in Southwark, including the key principles that underpin that vision;
 - Ten fairer future promises that set out our key commitments for the residents and businesses of Southwark;
 - A set of fairer future themes and commitments around which future delivery will be based;
 - An outline of the financial context in which the plan will be delivered.

11. This Council Plan is structured around six priority themes. These reflect the things that the people of Southwark said were most important to them. These six key themes are:
 - Quality affordable homes
 - Best start in life
 - Strong local economy
 - Healthy active lives
 - Cleaner, greener, safer
 - Revitalised neighbourhoods.

12. The priority themes will guide our future budget planning and how we organise the way we monitor and report on the progress of the plan. Each theme will include a set of commitments which are in turn underpinned by a series of “measures” and “milestones” that show in a clear and transparent way, how our performance will be judged. These measures and milestones have been developed in conjunction with the budget setting process.

Fairer Future promises

13. The council kept the ten promises it made to the residents and businesses of Southwark in 2010. This plan now sets out ten new fairer future promises that were agreed by cabinet on 22 July 2014. These are:

Promise 1: **Value for money** “We will continue to keep Council Tax low by delivering value for money across all our high quality services.”

Promise 2: **Free swimming and gyms** “We will make it easier to be healthier with free swimming and gyms for all residents and doubling the number of NHS health checks.”

Promise 3: **Quality affordable homes** “We will improve housing standards and build more homes of every kind including 11,000 new council homes by 2043 with 1,500 by 2018. We will make all council homes warm, dry and safe and start the roll out of our quality kitchen and bathroom guarantee.”

Promise 4: **More and better schools** “We will meet the demand for primary and secondary school places and drive up standards across our schools so at least 70% of students at every secondary get at least five good GCSEs.”

Promise 5: **Nurseries and childcare** “We will help parents to balance work and family life including investment in our children’s centres to deliver more quality affordable childcare and open two new community nurseries.”

Promise 6: **A greener borough** “We will protect our environment by diverting more than 95% of waste away from landfill, doubling the estates receiving green energy and investing in our parks and open spaces.”

Promise 7: **Safer communities** “We will make Southwark safer with increased CCTV, more estate security doors and a Women’s Safety Charter. We will have zero-tolerance on noisy neighbours.”

Promise 8: **Education, employment and training** “We will guarantee education, employment or training for every school leaver, support 5,000 more local people into jobs and create 2,000 new apprenticeships.”

Promise 9: **Revitalised neighbourhoods** “We will revitalise our neighbourhoods to make them places in which we can all be proud to live and work, transforming the Elephant and Castle, the Aylesbury and starting regeneration of the Old Kent Road.”

Promise 10: **Age friendly borough** “We want you to get the best out of Southwark whatever your age so will become an age friendly borough including the delivery of a Southwark ethical care charter and an older people’s centre of excellence.”

Monitoring, reporting and communicating on progress

14. The Council Plan contains a range of promises and commitments which the Council will deliver from 2014/15 to 2017/18.
15. More detailed performance schedules have been developed for each Council Plan theme with responsibility for each commitment apportioned across the cabinet portfolios. To ensure accountability for each commitment, a lead cabinet member and lead chief officer has been identified, thereby ensuring that the whole organisation is working towards delivery of the plan.
16. The cabinet will receive quarterly monitoring reports on progress against the measures and milestones for each Council Plan theme, reported in tandem with the council’s financial reporting cycle. The Leader will also present an Annual Performance Report on progress of the plan to Council Assembly in July each year. The council’s website will be the primary channel of regular reporting and communication, and updates will also provided through our Southwark Life magazine.

Consultation

17. In accordance with the council’s constitution and budget and policy framework, the Council Plan 2014/15-2017/18 and proposals within it have been subject to consultation.
18. The process of consultation on the Council Plan was undertaken alongside the development of the budget (report elsewhere on this agenda). The consultation

set out the key priorities of the new Council Plan, including the ten new fairer future promises that were approved by cabinet in July 2014, thereby enabling residents and stakeholders to take a view on areas of expenditure and how best to prioritise spending and delivery.

19. When the cabinet approved the new ten fairer future promises in July 2014, it was also agreed that engagement on the plan be undertaken with the chairs of the overview and scrutiny committee and its sub committees through the council's consultation on its future budgets. There has been opportunity to comment on the plan initially approved by cabinet and discussion has taken place on the fairer future promises through both cabinet member interviews and topics in the committee work programme. Budget proposals were also presented to overview and scrutiny on Monday 2 February 2015.
20. The Equality and Human Rights panel were consulted on how to further embed equality into the Council Plan.
21. The Council Plan is therefore now being presented, alongside the budget following the outcome of that consultation process, ultimately for agreement to council assembly in February 2015.

Community impact statement

22. The purpose of this report is for cabinet to agree the proposed new Council Plan 2014/15-2017/18. Throughout the plan we have made specific commitments to equality and fairness.
23. The proposed promises and commitments have been developed to have a positive impact on different sections of the community and particularly on residents who possess one or more of the protected characteristics. An equality analysis of the implementation of the commitments has been completed and is available as background document.
24. In line with the council's Approach to Equality detailed equality analysis will continue to be undertaken. Future decisions made on the basis of the commitments highlighted in this plan may require further equality analysis to be undertaken and more detailed consideration of the impact on local people and communities as appropriate.
25. The Forum for Equalities and Human Rights in Southwark have been consulted on the overall approach to equality taken within this Council Plan 2014/15-2017/18 and the development of the equality analysis that supports it.

Policy implications

26. The Council Plan is Southwark Council's (the council's) overarching business plan setting the overall policy direction for the period 2014/15 to 2017/18. The plan will guide the development and delivery of, and align with, other key council strategies and plans, over that period.

Financial implications

27. Resources to implement the new Council Plan will be identified in conjunction with budget setting for financial year 2015/16 and beyond. The cost and officer time

required for the consultation is contained within existing resources.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of legal services

28. 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. However there are clear advantages to the council providing a clear statement to the residents, businesses and other stakeholders about the programme of work that the council is working towards to deliver a set of agreed objectives.
29. A local authority is still required to achieve best value.
30. Equality analysis has been undertaken for this report on assessing impact of implementation of the promises and commitments. 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. As stated above this analysis is available as a background paper.

Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services (FC14/046)

31. The strategic director of finance and corporate services notes the recommendations in this report which seeks cabinet agreement to the proposed Council Plan 2014/15-2017/18, for ultimate agreement by council assembly in February 2015.
32. There are no new financial implications resulting from this report, although the resources to implement the new Council Plan are identified in the policy and resources report 2015/16, which will also be submitted to council assembly in February 2015/16.
33. The strategic director of finance and corporate services expects that financial appraisals will be carried out as any new plans are developed and will be subject to future reports as required.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Delivering a Fairer Future for All in Southwark	Chief Executive's Department Southwark Council 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Graeme Gordon graeme.gordon@southwark.gov.uk
Link: http://moderngov.southwarksites.com/ielistdocuments.aspx?CId=302&MId=4860&Ver=4		
Fairer Future Annual Performance Report 2013/14	Chief Executive's Department Southwark Council 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Chima Amiaka chima.amiaka@southwark.gov.uk
Link: http://moderngov.southwarksites.com/ielistdocuments.aspx?CId=302&MId=4861&Ver=4		
Fairer Future Interim Performance report 2013/14	Chief Executive's Department Southwark Council 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Chima Amiaka chima.amiaka@southwark.gov.uk
Link: http://www.southwark.gov.uk/interimreport		
Council Plan 2011-14	Chief Executive's Department Southwark Council 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Chima Amiaka chima.amiaka@southwark.gov.uk
Link: http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200342/council_plan		
Equality Analysis on Council Plan 2014/15-2017/18	Chief Executive's Department Southwark Council 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Chima Amiaka chima.amiaka@southwark.gov.uk
Link: http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200293/a_fairer_future/3156/council_plan		
Budget Consultation Report 2014/15-2017/18	Chief Executive's Department Southwark Council 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Chima Amiaka chima.amiaka@southwark.gov.uk
Link: http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200293/a_fairer_future/3156/council_plan		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Council Plan 2014/15-2017/18
Appendix 2	Council Plan 2014/15-2017/18: Performance Schedules

AUDIT TRAIL

Cabinet member	Councillor Peter John, Leader of the Council	
Lead officer	Eleanor Kelly, Chief Executive	
Report author	Chima Amiaka, Senior Strategy Officer, Corporate Strategy	
Version	Final	
Dated	30 January 2015	
Key decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Title	Comments sought	Comments included
Director of legal services	Yes	Yes
Strategic director of finance and corporate services	Yes	Yes
Cabinet member(s)	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		30 January 2015