

Item No. 11.	Classification: Open	Date: 20 September 2016	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Refresh of the Council Plan 2014-18	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
Cabinet Member:		Councillor Peter John, Leader of the Council	

FOREWORD – COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

When I first became Leader in 2010, we quickly set about putting in place our promises to deliver a fairer future. Six years on I'm really proud of what we've achieved in making those promises and plans a daily reality for many across our fantastic borough. The facts speak for themselves. We've kept all our libraries open, and built two new ones at Canada Water and Camberwell. And now Canada Water is among the busiest libraries in London. As the Olympic Games commenced, we opened The Castle Leisure Centre with free gym and swim on offer to residents. The World Health Organisation has accredited us as an age friendly borough, meaning whatever your age you can get the best from living here.

We're making Southwark the place in London to learn and earn. Most of our secondary schools have 70 per cent or more students securing at least five good GCSEs. 91 per cent of all our Schools are rated "good" or better by Ofsted. Over 400 new apprenticeships were created in the last year alone, the best in London. Over the last two years our investment, including through regeneration, has helped over 2,500 residents start new jobs. In fact, more people are employed in Southwark in 2016 than at any other time this century.

And this is a great place to call home. We've delivered on our promise to make council properties warm, dry and safe with over £250m worth of improvements benefitting over 5,000 residents and decency rates for homes at their highest rate in 10 years. Your council rents continue to be among the lowest in London. In the last five years, we've delivered 2,646 new affordable homes, over half of these at social rents, which is one of the best records in the country. We're on track to build 1,500 new council homes by May 2018 with many more new homes under construction through the major regeneration of Elephant & Castle, Aylesbury and Canada Water. We have the best recycling rates in inner London. And although we're only 11 square miles, we're bursting with fabulous open spaces with 23 of the borough's parks awarded the prestigious green flag making Southwark a great place to go out, get active and have fun!

And all of this has been done whilst delivering £156m in savings over the last five years, with another £69m savings required before 2019, as a result of unprecedented and sustained reductions in government funding to our borough since 2010.

It's not just us thinking this is a great council and place to be either – an independent assessment of the council by the Local Government Association found we had a 'can-do approach' and much to be proud of.

Six years ago we put together an ambitious set of commitments to you, as residents, businesses, and the wider community, with many already achieved. There is more to do and we face new realities including a new housing and planning Act putting different pressures on us locally, and more broadly what the borough's place will be in a country outside of the European Union.

So as we refresh our plans to take account of what's changed and might change up to 2018, I'd like to thank you for the part you play in continuing to make Southwark the best borough in the country. I'm confident our refreshed plan will help us go even further in making good on our promises to you and I look forward to reporting back on how we're continuing to achieve a fairer future for all.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That cabinet:

1. Recommends the proposed refresh of the Council Plan 2014-2018 for agreement by Council Assembly on 30 November 2016.
2. Agrees to the proposed refresh of the Council Plan 2014-2018.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. In February 2015 the council assembly approved the Council Plan 2014-18.
4. The Council Plan is Southwark Council's (the council's) overarching business plan. It sets out the programme of work that the council will achieve over the period 2014/15 to 2017/18 and as such sets out a clear statement to residents, businesses, local voluntary/community sector organisations and other stakeholders of how the council will work with them to deliver a fairer future for all in Southwark.
5. The Council Plan 2014-18 built on the achievements of the organisation's previous Council Plan. Both plans were developed in light of unprecedented reductions in funding from central government.
6. In the two years since the council adopted its Council Plan 2014-18, the context in which we deliver services has changed and the council as an organisation has changed.
7. The council has made huge strides in delivering key commitments and reshaping our activities to ensure successful delivery against the fairer future vision. To date we have built over 150 new council homes and helped more than 2,500 Southwark residents into jobs, adopted an ethical care charter, opened two new nurseries, secured accreditation as an Age Friendly Borough, and launched a free gym and swim offer - to name a few. A full review of progress against the Council Plan is outlined in the Fairer Future Annual Performance Report 2015/16.
8. These achievements and developments present a timely juncture to fine tune the direction of the Council Plan, ensuring the commitments we make are relevant and continue to achieve a fairer future for all.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

9. The council has delivered against a number of commitments since adopting the Council Plan 2014-2018, as detailed in the Fairer Future Annual Performance Report 2015/16.
10. Refreshing the Council Plan enables us to build on our achievements so far, reflect the emerging strategic priorities of the council, and establish a set of ambitions that respond to a changing local and national policy context, and organisational change.
11. In light of these developments, a number of new commitments are proposed under each theme.
12. The refreshed Council Plan 2014-2018 retains all the core features of the Council Plan 2014-2018 including:
 - A vision for a fairer future for all in Southwark via the five fairer future principles
 - 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 aims, context and processes that guide delivery.
13. The current Council Plan 2014-18 includes six priority themes, these are:
 - Quality affordable homes
 - Best start in life
 - Strong local economy
 - Healthy active lives
 - Cleaner, greener, safer
 - Revitalised neighbourhoods
14. It is proposed that the refreshed Council Plan adopts a seventh priority theme entitled “fit for the future”. This theme articulates our commitment to deliver responsive, digitally enabled services that adapt well to change and deliver continuous improvement to residents. Building on the strong foundations that we have laid in the last five years through greater efficiencies – and in spite of unprecedented reductions in government funding – this priority will focus on harnessing the skills and talents we need for the changing borough in which we operate.
15. The refreshed Council Plan contains a range of promises and commitments which the Council will deliver up to 2017/18. More detailed performance schedules, which sit beneath this council plan, have been developed for each Council Plan theme. These include lead cabinet member and chief officer responsibility for each commitment apportioned across the cabinet portfolios. This ensures the whole organisation is working towards delivery of the plan.
16. The cabinet will receive an annual performance report on progress against the Council Plan each year. The council’s website will be the primary channel of

regular reporting and communication on the Council Plan, with updates also provided through our Southwark Life magazine.

Community impact statement

17. The purpose of this report is for cabinet to agree the proposed refresh of the Council Plan 2014-2018. Throughout the plan we have made specific commitments to equality and fairness.
18. 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.
19. An equality analysis of the implementation of the commitments was completed for the Council Plan 2014-18 and is available as a background document. Equality analysis was also undertaken for the council's Digital Strategy, which is also available as a background document.
20. 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.

Financial implications

21. 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 Law and Democracy

22. 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.
23. A local authority is still required to achieve best value.
24. Equality analysis has been undertaken for the original plan on assessing impact of implementation of the promises and commitments; in addition equality analyses were also carried out on the Digital Strategy. 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 for Finance and Governance

25. This report is requesting cabinet to agree the proposed refresh of the Council Plan 2014–2018 and recommend it to council assembly for agreement on 30 November 2016.
26. The strategic director of finance and governance notes that there are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.
27. Staffing and any other costs connected with this report to be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Fairer Future Annual Performance Report 2015/16	160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Nazmin Yeahia nazmin.yeahia@so uthwark.gov.uk
Link: http://moderngov.southwarksites.com/documents/s62943/Appendix%201%20Annual%20performance%20report.pdf		
Council Plan 2014/15-2017/18	160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Nazmin Yeahia nazmin.yeahia@so uthwark.gov.uk
Link: http://www.southwark.gov.uk/downloads/download/4181/council_plan_2014-18		
Equality analysis of the Council Plan 2014-18	160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Nazmin Yeahia nazmin.yeahia@so uthwark.gov.uk
Link: http://www.southwark.gov.uk/downloads/download/4076/equality_analysis_of_the_council_plan_201415-2017-18		
Southwark's Digital Strategy: Equality and health analysis	160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Nazmin Yeahia nazmin.yeahia@so uthwark.gov.uk
Link: http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s59721/Appendix%203%20Southwarks%20Digital%20Strategy%20Equality%20and%20Health%20Analysis.pdf		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Refresh of the Council Plan 2014-18

AUDIT TRAIL

Cabinet Member	Councillor Peter John, Leader of the Council	
Lead Officer	Eleanor Kelly, Chief Executive	
Report Author	Nazmin Yeahia, Senior Strategy Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	9 September 2016	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	9 September 2016	