

Item No. 6.1	Classification: Open	Date: 28 November 2018	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Council Plan 2018/19 – 2021/22	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Cabinet	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly agrees to the proposed Council Plan 2018/19 – 2021/22 (as set out in Appendix 1).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. 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 2018-19 to 2021-22. 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 continue to deliver a fairer future for all in Southwark.
3. This Council Plan covering the period from 2018/19 – 2021/22 builds on the achievements of the organisation's previous Council Plan, which included key commitments such as delivering free swim and gym, delivering new affordable homes, making council homes warm, dry and safe and supporting over 5,000 residents into employment.
4. Our continued vision is for a fairer future for all in Southwark. This is expressed through a set of seven "vision statements" that are at the heart of what we want to achieve for Southwark over the next four years.
5. This Council Plan has been developed in the context of further substantial reductions in funding from central government. This funding, 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 council tax low and ensure we provide value for money, quality services.
6. Since May 2010, in 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 will continue to listen to the community to protect valued frontline services and to innovate and 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.
7. On 30 October 2018 the cabinet considered a report on the Council Plan 2018/19 - 2021/22. The cabinet moved and agreed the following

recommendations:

- 1) To note the issues raised in the public consultation on the Council Plan.
- 2) Agree the final format of the proposed Council Plan 2018/19 – 2021/22.
- 3) Recommend the proposed Council Plan 2018/19 – 2021/22 for agreement by council assembly on 28 November 2018.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

The Council Plan

8. The Council Plan 2018/19 – 2021/22 includes:
 - A vision for a fairer future for all in Southwark, including the seven key principles that underpin that vision;
 - 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.
9. The Council Plan is structured around eight priority themes. These reflect the things that the people of Southwark said were most important to them. These priority themes are:
 - A place to call home
 - A place to belong
 - A greener borough
 - A full employment borough
 - A healthier life
 - A great start in life
 - A safer community
 - A vibrant Southwark.
10. These 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 includes a set of commitments 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 are being developed in conjunction with the budget setting process.

Consultation

11. The Council Plan 2018/19 – 2021/22 closely reflects the contents of the Southwark Labour manifesto which had wide public engagement during the local elections in May 2018. In accordance with the council’s constitution and budget and policy framework, the Council Plan 2018/19 – 2021/22 and proposals within it have been subject to consultation.
12. The Council Plan was published on the council’s online consultation hub on 28 June 2018 and the consultation ran for nine weeks, closing on 31 August 2018. A small number of responses were received from the public through the consultation hub. A summary of the issues raised in feedback to the Council Plan consultation was presented to Cabinet in October 2018.
13. The Forum for Equalities and Human Rights in Southwark (FEHRS) were also

consulted on how to further embed equality into the Council Plan. In their feedback the FEHRS recommended a number of additions to the Council Plan, including highlighting the importance of the voluntary and community sector, the council's commitment to equalities including the Public Sector Equality Duty, and ongoing opportunities for feedback for local people. These changes are reflected in the final version of the Council Plan agreed by cabinet.

14. Following the adoption of the Council Plan 2018/19 – 2021/22 by council assembly, the council will continue to engage with local people to implement the commitments set out in the Plan. We will consult on all aspects of the plan over the next four years.

Monitoring, reporting and communicating on progress

15. The Council Plan contains a range of promises and commitments which the council will work towards over the coming four years. Underpinning these is a set of detailed performance schedules, with responsibility for each commitment apportioned across the cabinet portfolios.
16. Starting with cabinet and working through to individual members of staff, we will ensure that the whole organisation is working towards delivering our Council Plan. A lead cabinet member and chief officer are identified for each commitment set out in the plan for transparency and accountability purposes.
17. To ensure that this plan has real impact, the measures and milestones that will underpin it will be monitored every three months to assess progress. The cabinet will receive quarterly reports on progress against the measures and milestones that will be set out in the performance schedules. The leader will present an annual performance report on progress to council assembly in July each year. The council's website will be the primary channel of communication, with updates also provided through our Southwark Life magazine.

Community impact statement

18. The council has a vision to create a fairer future for all by promoting social and economic equality in an economically vibrant borough. The Council Plan describes how we'll deliver our fairer future vision through the commitments made to the people of Southwark. The council's commitment to equality and fairness runs throughout this plan, in line with our equality and diversity policies.
19. The proposed commitments may have an impact on different sections of the community and particularly on residents who possess one or more of the protected characteristics. In line with the council's approach to equality, as the performance schedules are developed over 2018-19, more detailed equality analysis will be undertaken.
20. The Forum for Equalities and Human Rights in Southwark (FEHRS) has been consulted and the Council Plan has been updated to reflect their feedback. The FEHRS will continue to be consulted on the development of the equality analysis that will support the Council Plan 2018/19 – 2021/22.
21. We will give due consideration to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) as a positive duty to consider the promotion of equality throughout the work of the Council Plan and implementation process. We will also publish information on our website to show how we implement the PSED in our work and performance.

22. A high level equalities analysis has been undertaken (Appendix 2) and as the Council Plan is implemented, equalities and health analyses will be carried out for each of the commitments set out in the Plan.

Policy implications

23. The Council Plan is Southwark Council's (the council's) overarching business plan setting the overall policy direction for the period 2018/19 – 2021/22. The plan will guide the development and delivery of, and align with, other key council strategies and plans, over that period.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Democracy

24. 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.
25. However, a local authority is still required by the Local Government Act 1999 to achieve "best value", in other words, 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.
26. The report acknowledges the possibility that there will be an impact on residents who possess one or more of the protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, and notes the equalities analysis undertaken in paragraph 22. Council Assembly are reminded that the council, in the exercise of all its functions, must have due regard (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. Further equalities analysis concerning each of the commitments will need to be considered in consideration of this duty.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance

27. This report is requesting Council Assembly to agree proposed Council Plan 2018/19 – 2021/22 (as set out in Appendix 1).
28. The strategic director of finance and governance notes that there are no new immediate financial implications arising from this report.
29. The strategic director of finance and governance expects that financial appraisals will be carried out as any new plans are developed and will be subject to future reports, including identifying the revenue or capital resources for any new commitments.
30. Staffing and any other costs connected with this report are to be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Council Plan 2018/19 – 2021/22	160 Tooley Street PO Box 64529 London SE1P 5LX	Matthew.little@southwark.gov.uk Aine.gallagher@southwark.gov.uk
http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s78193/Appendix%201%20Council%20Plan%202018-19%202021-22.pdf		
Cabinet 30/10/18 Agenda item 8 – Council Plan 2018/19 – 2021/22	160 Tooley Street PO Box 64529 London SE1P 5LX	Matthew.little@southwark.gov.uk Aine.gallagher@southwark.gov.uk
http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ielListDocuments.aspx?CId=302&MId=6085&Ver=4		
Cabinet 26/06/18 Agenda item 8 – Council Plan 2018/19 – 2021/22	160 Tooley Street PO Box 64529 London SE1P 5LX	Matthew.little@southwark.gov.uk Aine.gallagher@southwark.gov.uk
http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ielListDocuments.aspx?CId=302&MId=6124&Ver=4		
Council Plan Interim Performance Report 2014/15 – 2017/18	160 Tooley Street PO Box 64529 London SE1P 5LX	Matthew.little@southwark.gov.uk
https://www.southwark.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/fairer-future/council-plan		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Council Plan 2018/19 – 2021/22
Appendix 2	Equalities Analysis

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Eleanor Kelly, Chief Executive	
Report Author	Matthew Little, Principal Strategy Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	15 November 2018	
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	15 November 2018	