

<b>Item No.</b> 9.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 8 September 2020	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Cabinet
<b>Report title:</b>		Refresh of the Council Plan 2018-2022	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>		Councillor Peter John, Leader of the Council	

## **FOREWORD FROM COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN OBE, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

In 2010 we set out our vision to create a fairer future for all in Southwark. Over the last ten years we have delivered on our commitments to residents to make Southwark clean, green and safe, to build more affordable homes, to create jobs and opportunities for residents and to give young people in our borough the best start in life.

The 2018-2022 Council Plan set out our four-year plan for Southwark, building on our record of delivery and offering a new approach, with bold commitments to move Southwark forward and make our borough even fairer. In the last two years we have already made good progress on delivering on many of the promises we set out in the Council Plan. We have supported thousands of residents into jobs, built hundreds of new council homes at council rents, opened another new state of the art library, rolled out free school meals to nursery schools, and set out robust plans to tackle the Climate Emergency.

Since we adopted the Council Plan in 2018 the context in which we are operating has changed significantly, particularly in the last six months as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 has been an unprecedented challenge for the whole country, with thousands of lives tragically lost and millions more negatively affected. I am extremely proud of the way the council has worked with partners and volunteers to support our residents through the crisis. Southwark's response and the spirit of community demonstrated throughout the pandemic shows what a unified and supportive borough we are.

We know that there is still a long way to go to tackle the public health crisis, to deal with the long-term impact and to lead Southwark through recovery. The pandemic has created new demands and priorities for the council, which are reflected in this refreshed Council Plan.

The pandemic has also shone a light on wider inequalities which persist in our society as a whole. As a council our ambition always has been and remains to improve the life chances of everyone who lives in our borough. We are committed to working with our communities to do more to identify and implement solutions to address entrenched racism and injustice and take positive action to ensure equality of opportunity.

Despite the significant challenge, we remain ambitious for the future. We have worked to refine the Council Plan, to reflect new priorities and to set out the actions we will take between now and May 2022 to continue delivering a fairer future for all. As I hand

over to a new Leader of the Council, I am confident that the council will continue to work tirelessly to deliver for the people of Southwark.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That cabinet:

1. Agrees the proposed refresh of the Council Plan 2018-2022 (attached as Appendix 1) as a draft Plan and that it be made available for public consultation for a period of six weeks, as set out in paragraph 15.
2. Notes that, following the period of public consultation, the Leader will approve the final format of the Council Plan 2018-22 refresh for recommendation to the Council Assembly on 25 November 2020.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

3. The Council Plan is Southwark Council's overarching business plan and sets 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.
4. Council Assembly approved the Council Plan 2018-22 in November 2018. Since the Council Plan was adopted in 2018, the context in which the council operates and delivers services has changed significantly, particularly in the last six months as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
5. Southwark, like the whole country and indeed the world, has been significantly affected by the global COVID-19 pandemic. The crisis has had a huge impact on our borough and the council has played a critical role in delivering the public health response to the pandemic. The pandemic and economic fallout will also have a lasting impact on Southwark's finances, with the council facing a £45m shortfall in our budget because of the cost of delivering our response to COVID-19 and loss in income.
6. Despite the unprecedented challenge we face as a borough, the council is committed to continuing to deliver a fairer future for all of our residents. We have already made good progress on delivering on many of the promises set out in the 2018-22 Council Plan. In the last two years we have supported almost 2,800 Southwark residents into jobs, opened a new secondary school, launched the Great Estates programme and been officially recognised as London's first Living Wage Borough. Reviews of progress against the Council Plan are outlined in the Annual Performance Reports for 2018/19 and 2019/20.
7. The COVID-19 pandemic and other events over the last few months have created new demands and priorities for the council, including taking the huge public health challenge of the pandemic, supporting Southwark's local economy to recover from the significant financial hit of lockdown, and responding to the prevalent issues of racism and inequality that have resulted in the Southwark Stands Together work. In light of the pandemic and the resulting impact on the council and the borough, some of the commitments outlined in the Council Plan will be significantly more difficult to deliver, or may need to be delivered in a different way.

8. The refreshed Council Plan sets out the actions the council will take between now and May 2022 to continue delivering a fairer future for all.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

9. The council has delivered against a number of commitments since adopting the Council Plan 2018-2022, as detailed in the Annual Performance Reports for 2018/19 and 2019/20.
10. Refreshing the Council Plan enables us to build on our achievements so far and reflect the new and emerging priorities of the council in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. In light of these developments, a number of new themes and new commitments are proposed.
11. The Council Plan set out seven “vision statements” that are at the heart of what we want to achieve for Southwark:
  - The best start in life: clean air, great schools and an opportunity to thrive
  - The quality homes that you and your family need
  - Fighting for you, on your side in challenging and uncertain times
  - A great place to live with clean, green and safe communities
  - A healthy borough where your background doesn’t determine your life chances
  - Full employment, where everyone has the skills to play a full part in our economy
  - A modern efficient council: working with the community, listening to residents and open to you.
12. The Council Plan is structured around priority themes. It is proposed that the refreshed Council Plan adopts some revised and new priority themes, which are:
  - A place to call home
  - Climate Emergency
  - A green and fair economic renewal
  - Tackling health inequalities
  - A great start in life
  - Southwark Together.
13. The refreshed Council Plan contains a range of promises and commitments which the Council will deliver up to 2021/22. 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.

## **Consultation**

14. In accordance with the council’s constitution, the Council Plan 2018-2022 was subject to a period of consultation in 2018. This included consultation with the Forum for Equalities and Human Rights in Southwark (FEHRS) on the development of the equality analysis which supports the Council Plan.
15. A public consultation will be undertaken on the proposals in the refreshed Council Plan 2018-2022. The refreshed Council Plan will be available on the

council website and residents will have the opportunity to give feedback through the Consultation Hub. The consultation will also include engagement with stakeholders and community groups as appropriate. The final format of the refreshed Council Plan will be presented to Council Assembly in November 2020, having given regard to the outcomes of the consultation.

### **Community impact statement**

16. The Council Plan describes how we will deliver our fairer future vision for Southwark. The council's commitment to equality and fairness runs throughout the Council Plan, in line with our equality and diversity policies.
17. The purpose of this report is for cabinet to agree the proposed refresh of the Council Plan 2018-2022. 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 2018-2022 and is available as a background document. The public consultation on the refreshed Council Plan will inform the final updated equality analysis, which will go to Council Assembly in November 2020.
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. In line with the council's approach to equality, as the performance schedules are developed over 2020-21 and 2021-21, more detailed equality analysis will be undertaken.

### **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. In the past local authorities had been 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.
23. 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.
24. In deciding how to fulfil the best value duty, the council is required to consult with the local community and paragraph 15 sets out the proposals for this. These

consultation proposals are in accordance with the Best Value Statutory Guidance. The results of the consultation will need to be taken into account when the Leader makes a final decision regarding the content of the plan and recommends it to the Council.

25. 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. As paragraph 19 states, a further equalities analysis will be produced for consideration alongside the Plan when it is presented to Council for decision in November.
26. Approval of the Corporate Plan is a decision ultimately reserved to the Council Assembly in accordance with section 3A of the Constitution.

### **Strategic Director of Finance and Governance**

27. This report is requesting cabinet to agree a refresh of the Council Plan 2018–2022 and to agree to a six-week consultation prior to final agreement by Council Assembly on 25 November 2020.
28. The strategic director of finance and governance notes that there are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.
29. Staffing and any other costs connected with this report to be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Held At</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Council Plan 2018-19 – 2021-22	160 Tooley Street PO Box 64529 London SE1P 5LX	Aine Gallagher 020 7525 3855
<b>Link:</b> <a href="http://www.southwark.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/fairer-future/council-plan">http://www.southwark.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/fairer-future/council-plan</a>		
Council Assembly Report (Item 6.1) Council Plan 2018/19 – 2021/22 and Equalities analysis	160 Tooley Street PO Box 64529 London SE1P 5LX	Matthew Little 020 7525 0388
<b>Link:</b> <a href="http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s78765/Appendix%20%20Council%20Plan%20Equality%20Analysis%20Nov%2018.pdf">http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s78765/Appendix%20%20Council%20Plan%20Equality%20Analysis%20Nov%2018.pdf</a>		

### **APPENDICES**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Title</b>
Appendix 1	Council Plan 2018-2022 Refresh

## 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>	Aine Gallagher, Cabinet and Public Affairs Officer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	19 August 2020	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>		27 August 2020