

<b>Item No.</b> 9.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 13 July 2021	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Cabinet
<b>Report title:</b>		Annual Borough Plan Performance Report 2020-21	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>		Councillor Kieron Williams, Leader of the Council	

## **FOREWORD – COUNCILLOR KIERON WILLIAMS, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

As the Leader of Southwark Council, I am proud of our continued record of delivery for residents of the borough, even during this most difficult year. The country went into the first lockdown at the end of March 2020, and we have been in and out of COVID-19 restrictions ever since. This has not been an easy time for any of Southwark’s residents, businesses or community groups. I was elected Leader in September 2020 and while that was only ten months ago, it sometimes feels a lot longer. We have come so far together, and there is much work left to do as we come together to overcome the lasting impacts of the pandemic.

In November 2020 we refreshed the Borough Plan, not just to account for the necessary work to keep residents safe and supported during the pandemic, but also to renew our commitment to equality in response to the Black Lives Matter movement. The new Borough Plan set out our clear and practical ambition to tackle the climate emergency, while ensuring we continued to challenge the housing crisis and make sure that our young people have the best possible start in life.

This report reflects our progress against nearly 150 measurable commitments in the financial year 2020-21. Some of these targets are new, as part of the refreshed Borough Plan, and therefore require additional time to measure their progress. Others have been severely impacted by COVID-19 restrictions and the enormous financial and organisational pressure that has been placed on Southwark Council. However, we continue to press forward to make Southwark a fair and great place to live and work.

Whether you look at the record number of trees we have planted, the number of new council homes we have started to build or the amount of people we have helped into work over the past year, you can see that the council has

continued to adapt and overcome recent challenges to deliver across the board.

I am incredibly proud of all of our staff, and thankful for the continued support of residents, as we make progress against our ambitious Borough Plan. Similarly, the support of our partners across the borough, from schools, to businesses and our health services has been invaluable. Working together, we can make our borough greener, we can make sure everyone has access to a good, genuinely affordable place to call home, we can give our young people the best possible start in life and genuinely tackle inequality and discrimination wherever it exists.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. Cabinet notes the council's performance for the financial year 2020-21 against the refreshed Borough Plan, agreed in November 2020.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

2. On 25 November 2020, Council Assembly approved a refresh of the Council Plan 2018-2022, now known as the Borough Plan ([Item 6.1](#)).
3. The Borough Plan represents Southwark Council's overarching primary objectives and sets out the programme of work that the council will achieve over the period 2020-21 to 2021-22.
4. The Borough Plan reaffirmed the council's primary values, through which we will view all the decisions we make. We will:
  - Treat residents as if they were a valued member of our own family
  - Be open, honest and accountable
  - Work for everyone to realise their own potential
  - Spend money as if it were from our own pocket
  - Make Southwark a place to be proud of
  - Always work to make Southwark more equal and just
  - Stand against all forms of discrimination and racism.
5. The Borough Plan is structured around eight themes that reflect the ongoing priorities of the council, based on what are most important to the people of Southwark. They are:
  - Our response to COVID-19
  - Southwark Together
  - A green and inclusive economy
  - The Climate Emergency
  - Tackling health inequalities
  - Homes for all

- A great start in life
  - Thriving Neighbourhoods.
6. On 22 December 2020, The Leader of the Council approved the [Borough Plan Performance Schedules](#), which set out the various “measures”, and “milestones” against which progress towards each commitment would be recorded in a clear and transparent way.
  7. Throughout 2020-21, the council has monitored performance against the commitments in the Borough Plan, as well as key ‘business as usual’ targets, with performance data reviewed on a quarterly basis.
  8. This annual performance report summarises delivery against the Borough Plan in 2020-21. In line with our fairer future principle of being open, honest and accountable, the full cabinet portfolio performance schedules will be available on the council’s website.
  9. COVID-19 has had a severe and wide-ranging impact on the council and its ability to deliver services to residents over the past year. Whilst time and resources have rightly been diverted to support the pandemic, this has had an impact on the ability to deliver on every measure within the Borough Plan.
  10. As a result, key areas have been prioritised to bring them back in line with the original delivery timescales, although we also expect a number of areas where the ongoing impact of the pandemic over the coming months will further inhibit the ability of departments to remain solely focused on Borough Plan commitments.
  11. Despite the enormous financial and organisational pressure placed on the organisation by the pandemic and repeated lockdowns, we have continued to deliver for the residents of Southwark. Our commitment to the creation of a fairer and more equal borough remains undaunted and this report will show that we are pushing forward with our ambition plans around homes for all, a great start in life, a green and inclusive economy and much more.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

12. This report summarises progress against the third and penultimate year of the refreshed Borough Plan.
13. We are making excellent progress against numerous Borough Plan commitments, delivering for our residents, including by:
  - Establishing the Community Hub to support people who are vulnerable to, or should be shielded from, COVID-19. We made over

73,000 contacts to vulnerable residents, provided over 27,000 food parcels for those who needed them most and made over 3,000 referrals

- Matching the £246,120 raised from our residents, local businesses to fund 'Laptops for Learning' to support remote learning
- Launching 31 trial School Streets closure schemes to improve air quality and road safety at primary schools
- Planting 8,014 trees this year, putting us on target to surpass the 10,000 target next year
- Starting the construction of an additional 535 new council homes
- Bringing 231 empty properties back into use
- Providing emergency accommodation to 274 rough sleepers over the course of the pandemic, including 89 rough sleepers with no recourse to public funds
- Supporting 33 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children this year
- Supported over 16,000 families through food security interventions, including Holiday Food Support
- Opening the new Walworth Library and Southwark Heritage Centre in Walworth, hosting 2,000 visitors per week on average
- Contacting and supporting 4,265 businesses throughout the pandemic via the business help desk to help businesses access support and adhere to restrictions effectively.

14. In addition to our work towards achieving our Borough Plan, we continue to provide high-quality key services despite the ongoing challenges we have faced this year, including; keeping our streets clean and our waste collected, looking after our parks, delivering emergency works for tenants, safeguarding children and supporting vulnerable and older people through reablement and ongoing social care.
15. A full update on the progress against the commitments in the Borough Plan is detailed in the Borough Plan 20-21 Progress report (Appendix 1) and performance schedules (Appendix 2).

### **Community impact statement**

16. The purpose of this report is for cabinet to note delivery against the refreshed Borough Plan. No specific equality analysis has been undertaken on this report as there are no impacts arising from the report itself.
17. Future decisions made on the basis of the performance highlighted in this report may require further 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 development of the initial Council Plan 2018-22.

18. We will give due consideration to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) as a positive duty to consider the promotion of equality throughout the delivery of the Borough Plan. We will also publish information on our website to show how we implement the PSED in our work and performance.

### **Resource implications**

19. 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 Governance**

20. 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.
21. 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 Borough Plan is one of the ways the council can demonstrate that it is achieving this requirement.
22. As paragraph 16 of the report states, no specific equality analysis has been undertaken for this report as there are no anticipated impacts on the community arising from the report itself. However, cabinet is reminded 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. As paragraph 17 states, further equalities analysis may be need to be undertaken in relation to any subsequent work or proposals that arise from the ongoing implementation of the Borough Plan and an equality analysis will be produced for the refresh of the plan.

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

23. The report is requesting cabinet to note the council's performance over 2019-20 against the Borough Plan 2018-2022. Full details and background are contained within the main body of the report.

24. The strategic director of finance and governance notes that are no resource implications associated with the recommendations, as mentioned in resource implications.
25. Staffing and any other costs connected with this report to be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Council Assembly 25/11/20 Agenda item 6.1: Refresh of the Council Plan 2018-2022	160 Tooley Street PO Box 64529 London SE1P 5LX	<a href="mailto:Joseph.brown@southwark.gov.uk">Joseph.brown@southwark.gov.uk</a>
<b>Link:</b> <a href="http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&amp;MId=6773&amp;Ver=4">http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&amp;MId=6773&amp;Ver=4</a>		
IDM: Council Plan 2018-2022 Performance Schedules (2020)	160 Tooley Street PO Box 64529 London SE1P 5LX	<a href="mailto:Joseph.brown@southwark.gov.uk">Joseph.brown@southwark.gov.uk</a>
<b>Link:</b> <a href="http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7250">http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7250</a>		

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Progress Report - Borough Plan 2020-21
Appendix 2	Performance Schedules – Borough Plan 2020-21

**AUDIT TRAIL**

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Kieron Williams, Leader of the Council	
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Eleanor Kelly, Chief Executive	
<b>Report Author</b>	Joseph Brown, Cabinet & Public Affairs Manager	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	5 July 2021	
<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 Governance	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>		5 July 2021