

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM TO CABINET

12 November 2014

DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN SUMMARY 2015-20

Submitted by: **Head of Business Improvement, Central Services and Partnerships**

Portfolio: **Communications, Policy & Partnerships**

Ward(s) affected: **All**

Purpose of the Report

To present, for consideration by Cabinet, the proposed new draft Council Plan Summary, covering the period 2015-20.

Recommendation

That Cabinet notes the contents of the summary (found at Appendix A) and recommends that it is progressed.

Reasons

The attached Council Plan Summary 2015-20 provides information on the priorities and actions planned to be delivered by the Council. The document communicates the clear vision of the Council and the Council's strategic priorities around promoting economic development, growth and regeneration in the borough and is a response to the findings of the recent Planning Peer Review.

1. **Background/Key Areas of Focus**

1.1 A new Council Plan Summary for Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough was developed for 2015-20 to reflect changes in the political and economic environment impacting on the borough.

1.2 This document communicates the clear vision and the Council's strategic priorities to promote economic development, growth and regeneration in the borough and is in response to the findings of the recent Planning Peer Review. The Planning Peer Review report contained a recommendation on the need for a clear political narrative for the long term future of the borough and also stressed the need and importance of homes, jobs, and infrastructure. The Planning Peer Review report also emphasised the need for the Council and its partners to develop a coherent strategy for investment and growth. The development of the Council Plan Summary document has sought to take into account these key messages.

1.3 The Council Plan itself forms the basis of everything we do as a council, and links to all Council strategies and service planning.

1.4 The vision/corporate priorities remain unchanged from the previous Plan and are:

- To create a borough that is prosperous, clean, healthy and safe (the vision)
- a co-operative council delivering high quality, community-driven services
- A clean, safe and sustainable borough,

- A borough of opportunity and
- A healthy and active community (the corporate priorities)

The purpose of this Summary, therefore, is to do the following:

- Provide a strategic policy framework for service and financial planning for 2015 onwards
- Communicate the challenges facing the Council (financial and otherwise)
- Set out the key activities and outcomes of the Council under each priority heading
- Ensure local need is being addressed by the Council
- Ensure that the Council's various strategies (which feed into the Council Plan) are still relevant and are reflected in the Council Plan
- Reflect the key areas of focus for the Council as outlined earlier in this report and which came out of the recent Planning Peer Review process

2. Development of the Council Plan Summary

- 2.1 The Council Plan document has been developed by examining its content and layout, taking into consideration information from previous work undertaken and the need for the council to be in a strong position to establish and progress its plans.
- 2.2 The document consists of a tri-folded A3 plan.
- 2.3 The Plan retains the existing vision for the Council - "to create a Borough that is prosperous, clean, healthy and safe" and, as already said, its four priorities.
- 2.4 The Plan also contains a set of twelve outcomes to monitor the impact of the Council's work (whether alone or in partnership with others) which continue to meet the needs of the communities of the Borough and remain unchanged:

Priority: A Clean, Safe and Sustainable Borough

Our Borough will be safer

Our Borough will be cleaner

Our Borough will be sustainable

A Borough of Opportunity

Newcastle is a great place to work

Newcastle is a great place to do business

Newcastle is a great place to live

A healthy and active community

Everyone has the chance to live a healthy, independent life

Everyone has access to high quality leisure and cultural facilities/(activities)

Everyone has the opportunity to get involved in their community

Becoming a co-operative council delivering high quality, community-driven services

The council is efficient, open and innovative in its work

Services are designed and delivered co-operatively

Communities is strong and well supported

3. Timetable for delivery

- 3.1 The Council Plan summary is to be developed along the following timetable, thereby presenting opportunities for comments and feedback as part of this process at the outset of the financial year:
- Draft version for adoption from Cabinet 12 November 2014

- Approved version to Finance, Resources and Partnership Scrutiny Committee 4 December 2014

4 Constraints

- 4.1 One of the main constraints to consider in the development of the Plan for Newcastle Borough Council is that, like other authorities, balancing reductions in funding with the provision of quality services and increases in demand is a major challenge and potentially limits the ability of the Council to deliver against its plans generally.
- 4.2 The financial picture and how the council plans to deliver identified savings are detailed in the Revenue & Capital Budgets and Medium Term Financial Strategy. These activities will be monitored regularly and considered in service planning and other planned activities to ensure the savings are realised.

5 Options, Proposal and Reasons for Preferred Solution

- 5.1 The Council Plan informs the Council's overall corporate planning and acts as the major impetus behind budget proposals, longer-term strategic plans and also the service planning process.
- 5.2 The Council Plan Summary details the approach and work in order to effectively prepare the Council to meet the longer term demands and challenges to service delivery in the borough (as part of the 2020 Vision work).
- 5.3 Faced with the likely financial restraints leading up to 2020, decisions and planning for the next Council Plan (2016 onwards) will commence at the beginning of 2015-16 with a timetable of activities to ensure the council is in a good position to meet expected and unexpected challenges.
- 5.4 Members are asked to consider this draft Council Plan Summary and this covering report and recommend its approval and adoption.
- 5.5 In considering the Plan/report, Members can: -

Option A: Accept and approve the adoption of the new style Council Plan Summary 2015-20 and its contents as provided

This is the recommended option, albeit with further modifications and additions to be made as required by Cabinet

Option B: Request significant further changes to the document before it can be approved and adopted

This is also recommended, although Members should be aware that this will delay the process of publishing the summary and will also have an effect potentially on other related processes and activities in the future.

6. Legal and Statutory Implications

- 6.1 Officers have drafted this Plan in line with current codes and legislation.

7. Equality impact

- 7.1 There are no differential impacts in this report.

8. Financial and Resource Implications

8.1 The Plan will form the basis of the implementation of the overall Budget Strategy of the Council for 2015/16.

9. Major risks

9.1 The Plan will be considered against the overall Risk Strategy of the Council. This is also done as part of the Service Planning process.

10. Key Decision information

10.1 This report is in the Forward Plan.

11. List of Appendices

11.1 Draft version presented to Cabinet (November 2014) and FRAPS (December 2014) (Appendix A)

12. Background Papers

12.1 Working papers held by officers in 'Council Plan 2020' files

13. Management sign off

Each of the designated boxes need to be signed off and dated before going to Executive Director/Corporate Service Manager for sign off.

	<u>Signed</u>	Dated
Financial Implications Discussed and Agreed		
Risk Implications Discussed and Agreed		
Legal Implications Discussed and Agreed		
H.R. Implications Discussed and Agreed		
ICT Implications Discussed and Agreed		
Report Agreed by: Executive Director/ Head of Service		