

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

STRATEGIC PLAN 2014 - 2018

Purpose of the Report

1. This report invites Policy Committee to consider the Council's Draft Strategic Plan 2014 – 2018 prior to public consultation to inform the final development and approval of the Plan.

Background

2. The function of the Strategic Plan is set out in the Council's constitution. It is intended to:

Provide a clear statement of the Council's priorities, promises and values;

Enable agreed political objectives and statutory requirements to drive the Council's activities;

Enable the communication of the Council's priorities to staff, partner organisations and the community of Nottinghamshire as a whole;

Provide a broad framework of objectives and targets to allow the performance management of the Council and on which other key strategies and policies of the Council can be based including the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Asset Management Plan;

Meet the expectation of key external inspection agencies

3. The Council's current Strategic Plan covers the period 2010 - 2014 and has provided a focus for the strategic work of the Council internally and in projecting externally the ambition and sense of purpose of the Council. The current plan is due to expire in March 2014.
4. The development of the Strategic Plan 2014 – 2018 is against a difficult and prolonged financial backdrop coupled with a rising demand for our services. The Strategic Plan aims to reflect the priorities of the new administration and to focus our efforts on the people who need it most.

Development of the Strategic Plan

5. In drafting the Strategic Plan account has been taken of a number of key influences on the County Council, these are:

The political priorities following the May 2013 elections;

Key national policy initiatives and developments;

The Council's performance, particularly in areas of increasing demand and where the Council needs to improve.

6. Development of the draft Strategic Plan and its priorities has involved input from Members and senior officers. The Council's employees have been informed of the draft plan by the Chief Executive through his Chief Executive's Bulletin.
7. The draft Strategic Plan is structured around five priorities:
 - Supporting safe and thriving communities;
 - Protecting the environment;
 - Supporting economic growth and employment;
 - Providing care and promoting health;
 - Helping you to achieve your potential
8. These priorities are supported by a number of outcomes that we want to achieve, how we will assess how we have done this and what the role of the County Council is in achieving outcomes. The plan has been drafted in such a way that makes it easier to performance manage with clear outcomes and measurables defined to ensure we can demonstrate progress.
9. The Council's new Strategic Management Framework proposes to introduce an annual delivery plan for the whole council. The delivery plan will provide additional detail on the actions and activities to be undertaken each year in support of the outcomes set out in the Strategic Plan.
10. To inform further development of the draft Plan, the 2014-15 Budget Challenge public consultation includes a commitment to consult on the draft Strategic Plan. The Budget Challenge will enable the Council to seek views on whether we have the right priorities for the next four years and how we plan to deliver them.
11. Policy Committee is invited to consider and agree the draft strategic plan 2014 – 2018 to be consulted on. It is intended that the draft Strategic Plan be reviewed following consideration of feedback received through the public consultation, prior to final approval of the Strategic Plan by Members.

Other Options Considered

12. None.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

13. In accordance with the Policy Framework, Policy Committee required the development of a new Strategic Plan which reflects the vision and priorities of the Council for the next four years. The recommendations advance the development of the Strategic Plan 2014-18.

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

15. The final Strategic Plan will direct and/or advance the Council's policy in respect of a number of these areas. The Council will also need to have regard to any statutory and policy considerations in the future development of the key plans that will be required through the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that

1. The Policy Committee agree the draft Strategic Plan for public consultation.
2. The draft Strategic Plan be reviewed following public consultation and presented to Members for decision.

Councillor Alan Rhodes
Leader of the Council

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (NAB 04/09/2013)

13. Policy Committee has authority to approve the recommendation set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (SEM 06/09/2013)

14. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Nottinghamshire County Council Strategic Plan 2010 - 2014

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

