

Cabinet
Council

10th December 2013
14th January 2014

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member (Policy, Leadership and Governance) - Councillor A. Lucas
Cabinet Member (Strategic Finance and Resources) – Councillor D. Gannon

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Chief Executive

Ward(s) affected:

All

Title:

Coventry Council Plan

Is this a key decision?

Yes

Cabinet and subsequently Council are being recommended to approve the new Council Plan.

Executive Summary:

The previous Council Plan was adopted in 2011 and progress has been monitored through the half yearly performance reports. At the Cabinet meeting on 18 June 2013 the Cabinet noted that whilst good progress had been made over the last two years, there were significant challenges facing the City that should be reflected in a revised plan for 2013/14 onwards.

This report seeks approval for the new Council Plan. The plan provides the strategic direction and priorities for the Council for the next 10 years and reflects the Council's aspirations for Coventry.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet is requested to:

1. Recommend that the Council approve the new Council Plan attached as Appendix 1 of this report.

Council is requested to:

1. Consider any comments from Cabinet and approve the Council Plan attached as Appendix 1 of this report.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1 – Council Plan: our vision and priorities for the next 10 years (Draft)

Appendix 2 – Council Plan: delivering our priorities and measuring progress (Draft)

Other useful background papers:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

Yes – 14th January 2014

Report title: Coventry Council Plan

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 The Council's previous Council Plan 2011/12-13/14 was adopted in 2011 and provided the overall strategic direction for the Council.
- 1.2 The end of year performance report for year two of the Council Plan 2012/13 was reported to Cabinet on 18 June 2013. At the meeting the Cabinet noted that good progress had been made over the first two years of the plan, however there were significant issues facing Coventry and the Council's plans for the city needed to be much more aspirational if it is to be able to compete with other cities in the UK and abroad. The Council wants Coventry to be open for business, to enable the city to grow and become more prosperous and to better meet the needs of its citizens. Economic prosperity will help to achieve social justice for local people and tackle inequality.
- 1.3 The new *Council Plan* sets out how the Council intends to work towards achieving the Council's vision for the next 10 years.

2. About the Council Plan

- 2.1 The Council vision reflects the new aspirations and priorities for the city:



- 2.2 The Council is seeking to make Coventry a prosperous city through *global connections*, a city where prosperity benefits all of its residents. To do this, the Council will take a lead in growing the economy through the creation of a new business district and helping businesses to develop and invest in Coventry. The City will be promoted locally, nationally and internationally as a place to live, work and to do business. At the same time, the Council wants local people to prosper from this growth and will ensure there are more opportunities for local people to get jobs, develop their skills and qualifications and access a wider range of affordable housing.
- 2.3 The Council remains *locally committed* to improving the quality of life for Coventry people. Coventry will be an attractive place to live in, where people feel safe and able to be in control of their health and wellbeing. The Council will support the city's most vulnerable citizens through the provision of services for those who need them most.
- 2.4 The Council will deliver its priorities by maximising the benefits from its assets and by making operational savings so that it can continue to support essential front line services and support the regeneration of Coventry's economy. This will also require the Council to change the way that it works to become more flexible and adaptable.
- 2.5 Given the increasingly limited resources available to the Council, there will be a need to reduce the demand for Council services and for people who can, to do more for themselves and their communities. The Council will have new conversations with residents, communities and partners and aims to encourage people to become more active local citizens and to develop strong and involved local communities.

3. Performance Management Arrangements

- 3.1 The Council Plan priorities are progressed through Directorate service plans and reviewed regularly. In addition strategies are in place or are being developed to deliver the priorities identified in the plan. The strategies set out how the Council will deliver its priorities, as well as ways in which progress will be monitored. Appendix 2 sets out the strategies together with the proposed measures that will be used to assess progress. It is not an exhaustive list – the document will be updated as new strategies are approved, and made available online at www.coventry.gov.uk/policy/.

4. Approach to Equalities

- 4.1 The Council's approach to equality is embedded in the Council Plan priorities and these are also our Equality Outcomes. Progress against the Council Plan priorities will be reported through the Council's performance management framework and where applicable will include analysis by key equality groups/areas.

5. Consultation and engagement

- 5.1 The Council's approach to consultation and engagement is embedded in the Council Plan vision and priorities. The Council believes that working with residents, local communities and partners is key to delivering lasting improvements for Coventry. The Council will have an on-going conversation about its priorities with all partners to discuss their role in helping to facilitate the delivery of local solutions that address local issues.

6. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 6.1 Progress will be monitored and performance reported to members twice a year, the first end of year performance report will be reported to Cabinet in June 2014. The plan will be reviewed annually and any changes to the Council Plan priorities and measures reported to Cabinet in June each year.

7. Comments from Executive Director, Resources

7.1 Financial implications

In financial terms, the Council Plan is delivered through the Budget Setting process. The Council is due to set its 2013/14 Budget on 25th February 2014 and this will include any new proposals designed to fulfil the Council's priorities within the plan in addition to those approved previously. A number of these proposals contain a specific focus on delivering the priorities outlined in Section 2 and Appendix 1 of the report.

7.2 Legal implications

The Council Plan forms part of the Council's Policy Framework that must be approved by Council as provided by Part II of the Local Government Act 2000 and Regulation 2000/2853.

8. Other implications

None

8.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives and priorities (council plan/scorecard) / Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy?

The new Council Plan identifies the priorities for the Council for the next 10 years and will set the framework upon which Directorate plans and other key strategy documents can be developed. The Council Plan describes the Council's contribution to the Coventry Sustainable Strategy.

8.2 How is risk being managed?

The management of risk associated with the development and delivery of the proposed Council Plan will be identified and managed through the Council's performance management framework and Directorates service planning process.

8.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

As the key strategic performance document for the Council, the Council Plan will have implications for most areas of the Council's work.

8.4 Equalities / EIA

Coventry City Council is committed to making a difference to the lives of the people of Coventry and to promoting equality of opportunity for its citizens. The Council Plan has a clear focus on equality, aiming to ensure that all residents benefit from the growth of the city; the delivery of services for the most vulnerable citizens and addressing inequality.

Progress against the Council Plan priorities will be reported through the Council's performance management framework and will include where applicable analysis by key equality groups/areas.

8.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

The Council will encourage the growth of low carbon industries through its plans for the city it will also encourage businesses to reduce their operating costs by reducing their emissions. Low carbon and reduced emissions will be a priority for the Council in managing its own property portfolio

8.6 Implications for partner organisations?

The Council will work with all its residents, local communities and partner organisations, including the Coventry Partnership, to deliver the vision and objectives for the city.

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