

Report of Deputy Chief Executive

Report to Council

Date: 1st July 2013

Subject: Best Council Plan 2013-17

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. This report brings to Council for approval the new Best Council Plan 2013-17 to replace the existing Council Business Plan 2011-15. The Best Council Plan sets out our strategic outcomes and objectives and includes a range of milestones/indicators and targets which we will use to measure our progress. The plan was reviewed in light of the significant changes to the context within which we operate which has happened over the last two years and reflects the medium term financial strategy. It also incorporates the findings of the Commission on the Future of Local Government which have been used to further develop and shape our best council ambition in line with becoming a more enterprising council.

Recommendations

2. Members of Council are asked to:
 - approve the Best Council Plan 2013-17;
 - authorise Executive Board to make “in-year” amendments to this plans as may be required; and
 - approve the revisions to the Equality Improvement Priorities.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report brings to Council for approval the new Best Council Plan 2013-17 (in appendix 1), to replace the existing Council Business Plan 2011-15, in line with the budget and policy framework procedures rules.

2 Background information

- 2.1 The Best Council Plan 2013-17 aims to set out the strategic outcomes and objectives for the council. It replaces the Council Business Plan 2011-15 following a mid-term review which recognised the significant change in the context for local government such that a new planning approach was needed. The financial challenge is key with the need for a clearer focus in terms of what we do as well a change in the culture of how we work.

3 Main issues

- 3.2 The Best Council Plan is set out in appendix 1. The key changes in approach for Members to note are:
- Adoption of a “less is more” approach which has substantially reduced the number of priorities and indicators to provide a clearer focus for the organisation on what is important. Service plans across the organisation will continue to be used to capture and monitor the wider actions and activities.
 - In line with this a small set of Best Council Objectives form the central part to the new plan to provide some real clarity and focus for the whole council over the next 4 years. These effectively bring together key elements of the medium term financial plan and annual budget, the people plan, service priorities, business improvement programmes, our contribution to the outcomes in the city priority plan and organisational development activities in a more coherent and joined up way.
 - The plan more clearly sets out what we want to achieve over the medium term ie by Mar 2017 as well as setting out for the first time what we will do over the coming year (2013/14) to enable clearer monitoring of our progress.
 - Implementation of a more rolling approach to strategic planning with an annual review of activities for the year ahead. This will mean that the plan is more flexible and responsive.
 - Changing the name to the Best Council Plan to better reflect our ambition in this area.
- 3.3 The related Executive Board report in attached at appendix 2 sets out in more detail the context and drivers for change as well as the other key considerations in the development of this plan including consultation; equality issues, legal, resource and risk implications. The version of the plan that went to Executive Board has been removed from appendix 2 as this has been superseded by the final version attached to this report.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 As per the report to the Executive Board at appendix 2.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 As per the report to the Executive Board at appendix 2.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 As per the report to the Executive Board at appendix 2.

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 As per the report to the Executive Board at appendix 2.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 As per the report to the Executive Board at appendix 2.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 As per the report to the Executive Board at appendix 2.

5 Conclusions

5.1 This report brings to Council for approval the new Best Council Plan 2013-17 to replace the existing Council Business Plan 2011-15. The Best Council Plan sets out our strategic outcomes and objectives and includes a range of milestones/indicators and targets which we will use to measure our progress. The plan reflects the more recent and significant changes to the financial and policy context and links to the medium term financial strategy. It also incorporates the findings of the Commission on the Future of Local Government which have been used to further develop and shape our best council ambition in line with becoming a more enterprising council.

6 Recommendations

6.1 Members of Council are asked to:

- approve the Best Council Plan 2013-17;
- authorise Executive Board to make “in-year” amendments to this plans as may be required; and
- approve the revisions to the Equality Improvement Priorities.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.