

<b>Item No.</b> 8.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 30 October 2018	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Cabinet
<b>Report title:</b>		Council Plan 2018-19 – 2021-22	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>		Councillor Peter John, Leader of the Council	

## **FOREWORD FROM COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

In June, following the local elections in May 2018, the cabinet agreed the proposed Council Plan for 2018-19 – 2021-22. The Council Plan sets out our ambitions for the borough for the next four years and the commitments we have made to residents to continue delivering a fairer future for all in Southwark.

Following a period of public consultation, cabinet are now asked to agree the final version of the Council Plan, with minor amendments to reflect the feedback received during the consultation.

The council plan forms part of the council's policy framework and as such will be subject to consultation and final agreement by council assembly.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That cabinet:

1. Notes the issues raised in the public consultation on the Council Plan (paragraph 8).
2. Agrees the final format of the proposed Council Plan 2018-19 – 2021-22.
3. Recommends the proposed Council Plan 2018-19 – 2021-22 for agreement by council assembly on 28 November 2018.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

4. In June 2018 cabinet agreed the proposed Council Plan 2018-19 – 2021-22. As agreed by cabinet, a period of public consultation took place to allow residents the opportunity to comment on the proposed Council Plan and inviting feedback on how the commitments set out in the Plan should be implemented. The Equality and Human Rights panel were also consulted on how to further embed equality into the Council Plan.
5. A summary of the issues raised in feedback to the Council Plan consultation and response to each issue is at paragraph 8. Following this period of public consultation, the Council Plan has been amended to reflect feedback received during the consultation.
6. An amendment to the Council Plan was also made to include an additional commitment to 'Help parents spread the costs of childcare over a longer period

by setting up an affordable loan scheme'. This commitment was included in the Southwark Labour 2018 election manifesto, on which the Council Plan was based, but was not included in the draft Council Plan agreed by cabinet in June due to an editing error.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

### Consultation

7. The Council Plan 2018-19 – 2021-22 closely reflects the contents of the Southwark Labour manifesto which had wide public engagement during the local elections in May 2018. In accordance with the council's constitution and budget and policy framework, the Council Plan 2018-19 – 2021-22 and proposals within it have been subject to consultation.
  
8. The Council Plan was published on the council's online consultation hub on 28 June 2018 and the consultation ran for nine weeks, closing on 31 August 2018. A small number of responses were received from the public through the consultation hub. A summary of the issues raised in feedback to the Council Plan consultation and response to each issue is included below.

### Public response

Issue	Council response
Implementation/delivery	Following the agreement of the new Council Plan, cabinet have instructed officers to develop detailed performance schedules based on the priority themes set out in the Plan. These commitments are underpinned by a series of 'measures' and 'milestones' that show in a clear and transparent way how our performance will be judged. These measures and milestones will be developed in conjunction with the budget setting process and each commitment will have a named lead cabinet member and chief officer for transparency and accountability purposes. Progress against the delivery of the commitments set out in the Council Plan will be monitored and the council will regularly update on progress, through annual performance reports and other council communication, to ensure the process is transparent.
Improving the safety and accessibility of cycling	The council is committed to making cycling easier and safer for people in the borough, so that more people choose to travel by bike, including those who would not currently consider cycling. The Council Plan includes specific commitments to make cycling accessible for all, and to double the proportion of journeys in Southwark done by bike. This will be achieved through a range of actions, including cycling infrastructure, quietways, working with schools, cycle parking and bike hire schemes.
Road closures and car use	The council is committed to closing roads around schools to encourage more people to walk or cycle to school, and to tackle poor air quality. The Council Plan also includes commitments which aim to reduce reliance on polluting

Issue	Council response
	<p>vehicles, including varying parking charges in areas with poor air standards to encourage cleaner vehicles, and adapting lamp posts to charge electric cars so everyone is in walking distance of a charging point.</p> <p>We are committed to ensuring new developments prioritise walking, cycling and other sustainable transport over car use, for example by making new developments car free. We will continue to explore options for encouraging more sustainable forms of transport.</p>
Supporting working parents with children	<p>The cost of childcare can be a significant barrier for working parents and we are committed to supporting those people with young children who want to work. The expense of childcare can be particularly prohibitive in the early years of a child's life when parents return to work, which is why the proposed Council Plan includes a commitment to help parents spread the cost of childcare over a longer period by setting up an affordable childcare loan scheme.</p>
Mental health support	<p>We believe that good mental health is as important as good physical health and the council is committed to giving mental health the attention that it deserves. The Council Plan includes specific commitments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect adult mental health services;</li> <li>• Train mental health first aiders; and</li> <li>• Protect funding for mental health services for children and young people and find ways to change and improve services so that more children get the support they need when they need it.</li> </ul>

### Forum for Equalities and Human Rights response

9. The Forum for Equalities and Human Rights in Southwark (FEHRS) were also consulted on how to further embed equality into the Council Plan. In their feedback the FEHRS recommended a number of additions to the Council Plan, including highlighting the importance of the voluntary and community sector, the council's commitment to equalities including the Public Sector Equality Duty, and ongoing opportunities for feedback for local people. These changes are reflected in the final version of the Council Plan recommended for agreement by cabinet.
10. Following the adoption of the Council Plan 2018-19 – 2021-22 by council assembly, the council will continue to engage with local people to implement the commitments set out in the Plan. We will consult on all aspects of the plan over the next four years.
11. The Council Plan is therefore now being presented for agreement to council assembly in November 2018.

## **Monitoring, reporting and communicating on progress**

12. The Council Plan contains a range of promises and commitments which the council will work towards over the coming four years. Cabinet have tasked officers with developing more detailed performance schedules for each Council Plan theme, with responsibility for each commitment apportioned across the cabinet portfolios.
13. Starting with cabinet and working through to individual members of staff, we will ensure that the whole organisation is working towards delivering our Council Plan. A lead cabinet member and chief officer are identified for each commitment set out in the plan for transparency and accountability purposes.
14. To ensure that this plan has real impact, the measures and milestones that will underpin it will be monitored every three months to assess progress. The cabinet will receive quarterly reports on progress against the measures and milestones that will be set out in a performance schedule for each Council Plan theme. The leader will present an annual performance report on progress to council assembly in July each year. The council's website will be the primary channel of communication, with updates also provided through our Southwark Life magazine.

## **Community impact statement**

15. The council has a vision to create a fairer future for all by promoting social and economic equality in an economically vibrant borough. The Council Plan describes how we'll deliver our fairer future vision through the commitments made to the people of Southwark. The council's commitment to equality and fairness runs throughout this plan, in line with our equality and diversity policies.
16. The proposed commitments may have an impact on different sections of the community and particularly on residents who possess one or more of the protected characteristics. In line with the council's approach to equality, as the performance schedules are developed over 2018-19, more detailed equality analysis will be undertaken.
17. The Forum for Equalities and Human Rights in Southwark (FEHRS) has been consulted and the Council Plan has been updated to reflect their feedback. The FEHRS will continue to be consulted on the development of the equality analysis that will support the Council Plan 2018-19 – 2021-22.
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 work of the Council Plan and implementation process. We will also publish information on our website to show how we implement the PSED in our work and performance.
19. As the Council Plan is implemented, equalities and health analyses will be carried out for each of the commitments set out in the Plan.

## **Policy implications**

20. The Council Plan is Southwark Council's (the council's) overarching business plan setting the overall policy direction for the period 2018-19 – 2021-22. The plan will guide the development and delivery of, and align with, other key council strategies and plans, over that period.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**

### **Director of Law and Democracy**

21. It was previously a requirement for local authorities to publish a best value performance plan. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 removed the powers of the Secretary of State to specify performance indicators and standards for local authorities, the duty on authorities to meet such standards and to publish best value performance plans.
22. However, a local authority is still required by the Local Government Act 1999 to achieve “best value”, in other words, 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 Council Plan is one of the ways the council can demonstrate that it is achieving this requirement.
23. In deciding how to fulfill the best value duty, the council representatives of a wide range of local people, including representatives of council tax payers, those who use or are likely to use services provided by the authority, and those appearing to the authority to have an interest in the local area. Consultation should also include local voluntary and community organisations and small businesses.
24. The report refers to consultation already undertaken by publishing on the council’s online consultation hub for nine weeks. The report notes a small number of responses were received from the public through the consultation hub. A summary of the issues are included.
25. The report recognises the possibility that there will be an impact on residents who possess one or more of the protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, and notes that further equalities analysis will be undertaken. Cabinet is reminded that the council, 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. Any future equalities analysis will need to be considered in consideration of this duty.
26. The report further notes that as the Council Plan is implemented, equalities and health analyses will be carried out for each of the commitments set out in the Plan.

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

27. This report requests cabinet to note the issues raised in the public consultation on the Council Plan and agrees the final recommended format of the proposed Council Plan 2018-19 - 2021-22 for agreement by council assembly on 28 November 2018.
28. The strategic director of finance and governance notes that there are no new immediate financial implications arising from this report.
29. Staffing and any other costs connected with this report are to be contained within

existing departmental revenue budgets

30. The strategic director of finance and governance expects that financial appraisals will be carried out as any new plans are developed and will be subject to future reports, including identifying the revenue or capital resources for any new commitments.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Council Plan 2018-19 – 2021-22	160 Tooley Street PO Box 64529 London SE1P 5LX	<a href="mailto:Matthew.little@southwark.gov.uk">Matthew.little@southwark.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:Aine.gallagher@southwark.gov.uk">Aine.gallagher@southwark.gov.uk</a>
<b>Link (please copy and paste into your browser)</b> <a href="http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s75950/Report%20Council%20Plan%202018-19%20-%202021-22.pdf">http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s75950/Report%20Council%20Plan%202018-19%20-%202021-22.pdf</a>		
Council Plan Interim Performance Report 2014-15 – 2017-18	160 Tooley Street PO Box 64529 London SE1P 5LX	<a href="mailto:Matthew.little@southwark.gov.uk">Matthew.little@southwark.gov.uk</a>
<b>Link:</b> <a href="http://www.southwark.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/fairer-future/council-plan">http://www.southwark.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/fairer-future/council-plan</a>		
Council Plan 2014-15-2017-18 (Refreshed version)	160 Tooley Street PO Box 64529 London SE1P 5LX	<a href="mailto:Matthew.little@southwark.gov.uk">Matthew.little@southwark.gov.uk</a>
<b>Link:</b> <a href="http://www.southwark.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/fairer-future/council-plan">http://www.southwark.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/fairer-future/council-plan</a>		

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Council Plan 2018-19 – 2021-22

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Peter John, Leader of the Council	
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Eleanor Kelly, Chief Executive	
<b>Report Author</b>	Aine Gallagher, Principal Policy and Public Affairs Officer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	18 October 2018	
<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 Democracy	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>		18 October 2018