

SSDC Council Plan 2016 to 2021

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Purpose of the Report

To invite members to consider the new SSDC Council Plan (see attached) with a view to endorsing it and recommending its adoption at Full Council on the 21st April 2016.

Forward Plan

The Council Plan has been expected for discussion at the April meeting of District Executive.

Public Interest

The SSDC Council Plan is a document that outlines the Council's ambition and key priorities. Generally, council plans do not lay out every action that the council will take but focus on additional actions that put together with the delivery of important day to day council services will improve the quality of life in the area.

Recommendations

That the District Executive:

- (1) Recommends that Full Council adopts the new SSDC Council Plan 2016 – 2021.
- (2) Recommends that Full Council adopts the Council Plan Annual Action Plan (2016-17)

Background

Members will recall that the previous Council Plan was adopted by Full Council on 23 February 2012.

Rather than produce a long, wordy or costly document, this Council Plan is a change to a more simple approach. It depicts our aims, values, priorities and areas of focus on a single page. This is a document that can be shared widely and hopefully can be easily assimilated and understood. It is titled '*Tackling the Challenges*' and despite the financial situation it shows ambition with a co-ordinated and holistic approach. It should deliver outcomes and actions needed and wanted by our communities. The four priority areas from the previous Council Plan (*Economy, Environment, Homes and Health & Communities*) are retained but a new priority area is added. '*High quality, cost effective services*' enables the council to make savings to meet future budget shortfalls with the intention that front-line services can be protected wherever possible.

Another change is to move to an Annual Action Plan, (Appendix 1). It is important that council plans are resourced and can be delivered. In this era of local government funding uncertainty the Annual Action Plan will bring flexibility to adjust actions to ensure that they are allocated sufficient resources. In this way both staff time and funding can be assessed

each year to ensure plans are realistic and can be delivered. The Annual Action Plan also avoids a common drawback with 5-year action plans where the majority of actions are in the first two or three years. A further advantage of an annual plan with prioritised actions is the ability to retain flexibility to take advantage of new opportunities as they arise. It also allows easy monitoring of progress and it is suggested that there is an annual monitoring report to Full Council on the progress of the Annual Action Plan.

Appendix 2 is a brief snapshot of some of the key statistics relating to the priority areas. Data has been taken from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) which has been developed and agreed by the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board as well as data from other sources.

It is important to recognise that these priority areas in the Council Plan are overlaid over a large number of service areas that are important to our residents, businesses and visitors. These are shown in Appendix 3. These diagrams also indicate the range of ways in which SSDC seeks to deliver services to the district. Some years ago, SSDC adopted the principle of 'Enable-Partner-Deliver' and these diagrams indicate how many of our important services are now delivered in partnership with others. They also show where work is contracted into the council as one strand of an income generation approach.

There are two additional sections. Firstly, a glossary of acronyms used and secondly a list of the key partnerships that we will be working with to deliver the Council Plan.

Process

This Council Plan is very much a member-led plan. It has rolled forward the priorities of the previous corporate plan but the future actions have taken account of the needs assessment in the JSNA (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment). It has also incorporated the views of local people which were gathered in face-to-face conversations in the period January – May 2015. Overlaid over that information are the new initiatives such as Devolution, Somerset Rivers Authority, Transformation, Income Generation and the strategic alliance with Sedgemoor District Council.

Management Board and relevant council officers have contributed to the plan process. Scrutiny Committee and District Executive comments will be also fed in before the final draft is taken to Full Council.

Financial Implications

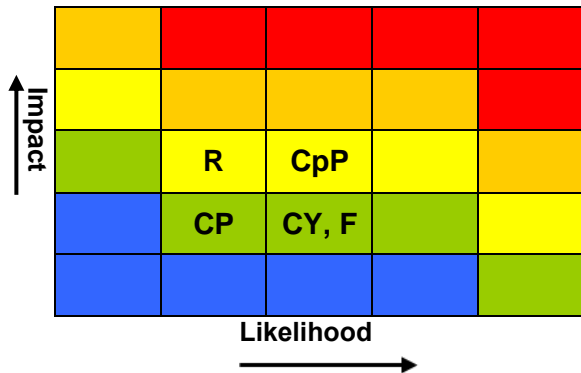
The cost of implementing the Action Plan has been included within the 2016/17 budget with the exception of the transfer of Castle Cary Market House and support for Huish Episcopi Academy community pool which are included elsewhere in this agenda.

A number of projects are outlined as being developed or progressed and these may come forward for further funding once this work has been completed.

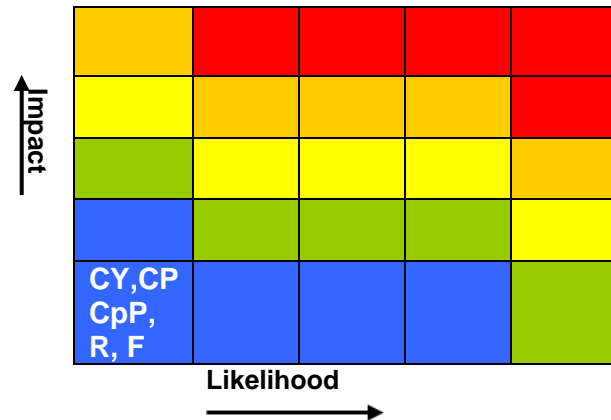
The Action Plan for 2017/18 will be brought forward at the same time as the budget is approved.

Risk Matrix

Risk Profile before officer recommendations



Risk Profile after officer recommendations



Key

Categories	Colours (for further detail please refer to Risk management strategy)
R = Reputation	Red = High impact and high probability
CpP = Corporate Plan Priorities	Orange = Major impact and major probability
CP = Community Priorities	Yellow = Moderate impact and moderate probability
CY = Capacity	Green = Minor impact and minor probability
F = Financial	Blue = Insignificant impact and insignificant probability

Council Plan Implications

This report clarifies council plan priorities for the next five years.

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

None directly.

Equality and Diversity Implications

None directly.

Privacy Impact Assessment

None directly.

Background Papers

None.