

BUSINESS SUPPORT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

3 FEBRUARY 2009

DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Janice Bamber, Customer First and Corporate Services

Report from: Stephanie Goad, Asst. Director, Communications, Performance and Partnerships

Author: Stephen Long, Senior Research and Review Officer

Summary

This report presents the draft Council Plan 2009-12 prior to consideration by Cabinet on 17th February 2009.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 The Council Plan 2009-12 will replace the previous Performance Plan as the Council's business plan. It is therefore a key element of the budget and policy framework.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council Plan has been developed through discussion with officers and portfolio holders during recent months. In addition to previous years, the priorities and outcomes contained in the plan have also been submitted to each Overview & Scrutiny committee as an appendix to the budget reports, to ensure members have had full opportunity to comment on the developing plan. (Due to diary commitments, discussions with the Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Enforcement will take place prior to Overview and Scrutiny but after the despatch of these papers).

3. Advice and Analysis

- 3.1 This report presents Medway's first Council Plan, a three year plan covering the period 2009 to 2012. The development of a Council Plan was first proposed in the Resource Strategy, agreed by Cabinet on 23 September 2009.
- 3.2 The Council Plan enables the organisation to demonstrate how it is using resources to meet locally specific objectives, and as such it is presented alongside the budget for member decision making. The

Council Plan will form an essential part of the council's performance management framework, setting out the outcomes against which progress will be measured.

- 3.3 The Community Safety Partnership Plan, which involves key partners, is also part of the budget and policy framework, and is currently subject to the same planning process. Therefore for this section the priorities and outcomes in the Council Plan are indicative, officers will ensure that the final plan is consistent with the Community Safety Plan.
- 3.4 The following table highlights the timeline for the finalisation of the plan:

Decision Making Body	Meeting Date
Business Support Overview & Scrutiny Committee	3 February
Cabinet	17 February
Full Council	26 February

The final Council Plan will be published in time for the start of the financial year

4. Consultation

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 4.1. The council is statutorily required to assess the impact of all new policies, strategies and service changes to ensure no part of the community is adversely affected. However, the council has in place Race, Disability and Gender Equality Schemes, and a clearly set out process which describes how changes to service delivery or new services and policies should be assessed for impact and, through Directorate Equality Plans, sets out a programme of regular review of the equality impact of services and strategies.
- 4.2. These processes ensure that the outcomes and initiatives set out in the Council Plan meet the needs of our customers and are assessed for impact during their development, prior to inclusion in the plan. Members can, therefore, be confident that officers have been tasked to identify and address any potential adverse impacts in line with legislation and best practice. However, officers will continue to assess and monitor the plan, both prior to its agreement by Cabinet, and throughout the life of the plan, to ensure compliance with all statutory requirements.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 That Overview and Scrutiny committee comment and provide feedback as appropriate for recommendation to Cabinet.

Lead officer contact

Steve Long, Senior Research & Review Officer, Research & Review Team, steve.long@medway.gov.uk, x1490.

Background papers

Resource Strategy and Council Plan 2009-12, Performance Plan 2007/8