

## **CABINET**

**12 FEBRUARY 2013**

### **COUNCIL PLAN 2013-2015: ADDENDUM REPORT**

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Alan Jarrett, Finance

Report from: Stephanie Goad, Assistant Director Communications,  
Performance and Partnerships

Author: Corporate Performance and Intelligence

#### **Summary**

This report sets out the views of the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee following its consideration of the draft Council Plan 2013-2015 on 7 February 2013.

#### **1 Background**

- 1.1 The Assistant Director Communications, Performance and Partnerships introduced the report advising that it was the council's overarching business plan which set out the council's commitments to achieving certain outcomes during the life of the plan. A key area of change was to reduce the number of priorities from five to four, as it was proposed that the previous priority for transport was incorporated into the regeneration priority. The plan contained the usual foreword from the Leader of the council but there was also a new introduction from the Chief Executive. It also references the key projects that officers have identified that will deliver the council's priorities.
- 1.2 The committee was advised of the various proposed deletions and additions from the previous year's plan and was also informed that there would be a financial section detailing where the council's main resources would be spent, once the budget for 2013/2014 had been agreed.
- 1.3 Members asked questions and made comments on a variety of measures and priorities in the draft plan, which included:
  - further details of the makeup of the Citizens Panel should be included in the plan
  - clarification of the focus of the new measures for vulnerable people feeling safe and secure (page 2 of Appendix 2). Members considered that it was critical these measures were included in the plan following the recent Winterbourne View Care Home report.

However, it should be explicit in the notes as to whether it was a service located in Medway (provided by a private company) or that it was a Medway Council service. Officers confirmed that the measure would seek feedback from adult social care clients whether they received services through direct council provision or, through personalised budgets, from other providers.

- within the children and young people section, Members asked for the same principle to be applied - to clarify whether it was a school located in Medway or a Medway school (run by the Local Authority), as they both had very different implications for the council
- concern at the new measure – effectiveness of CAF in meeting the needs of children and young people (page 6 of Appendix 2) – as it was not a service within the sole responsibility of the council which could potentially become a failing target, due to others not performing well
- further references to public health and the Health and Wellbeing Board should be included in the plan
- there was no reference to the INSPIRE project
- concern at the removal of the measure of public satisfaction with Community Officers (page 11 of Appendix 2)
- recognition that members would be involved with the selection of routes used to track average journey time along 6 primary transport corridors and that these were intended to cover all of Medway, not just Chatham as is the case now
- new measure on page 17 of Appendix 2 (number of walking buses) should also include how many children used the walking bus service
- consideration should be given to whether the new measures (N14 timeliness of assessments and N15 timeliness of Initial Child Protection Conference) should be supplemented by measures capturing outcomes achieved for children as this was often more important to the people involved. Also, that it was better to have a good assessment that took two days longer to complete, than have a rushed assessment in order to comply with the target
- clarification when reporting the statistics in future on the number of children with SEN placed outside Medway because there was no provision appropriate for them within Medway, as they had complex needs (page 9 of Appendix 1)
- request that officers review the data for PB8 (number of people receiving support from a Health and Lifestyle Trainer) and PH1 (number of adults taking part in healthy weight and exercise referral interventions) (page 4 of Appendix 2) as there was a possible contradiction in the data currently provided
- request for further information on NI 123 (rate of self-reported four week smoking quitters aged 16 or over) and whether the number of occurrences reported were separate individuals, or the total number of quits which could count people more than once if they repeatedly stop and restart smoking

1.4 Officers provided information and answers to Members questions and agreed to provide further information via a Briefing Note.

1.5 The committee agreed to:

(a) endorse the draft Council Plan 2013-2015 and Appendices 1 and 2 and refer the following comments for Cabinet consideration:

- (i) further information should be included in the plan on the constitution of the Citizen's Panel;
- (ii) reference should be included to the EU project INSPIRER;
- (iii) there should be clear notes in future monitoring reports if partners were responsible for performance results relating to CAF;
- (iv) future measurements should clarify, where appropriate, whether it was a service or school located in Medway rather than a Medway service provided by, or a Medway school run by, the council;
- (v) retain the measure for satisfaction with Community Officers;
- (vi) include how many people also used the walking buses in the new measure for the number of walking buses;
- (vii) consideration given to whether the new measures (N14 timeliness of assessments and N15 timeliness of Initial Child Protection Conference) should be supplemented by a measure on the outcomes achieved for children

(b) request a Briefing Note providing:

- (i) information on whether NI 123 (rate of self-reported four week smoking quitters aged 16 or over) was the number of individuals or the number of times they had tried to quit smoking;
- (ii) information on the Citizen's Panel, including a breakdown by demographic, gender, ward, etc.

## **2. Assistant Director's comments**

2.1 The Assistant Director for Communications, Performance and Partnerships welcomes the comments from the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2.2 The initial response of services on the issues raised with Cabinet by the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee are set out below and if Cabinet concurs with the comments appropriate amendments can be made to the Council Plan and the Target Planning appendix document.

(i) Citizens Panel – brief comments on the make up of the Citizens Panel can be incorporated into the version of the Council Plan to be considered by Council on 21 February 2013 and a briefing note on the Panel will also be provided;

(ii) INSPIRER project - details of this EU funded project could be added to the Council Plan in the following terms :

*INSPIRER (Improving Neighbourhood Sustainability with Participatory and Innovative Responses to Environmental Regeneration) is a European funded project started in October 2009 and ending in September 2014. There are 8 partners from England, Belgium and France. The aim of the project is to improve the quality of life for residents in disadvantaged neighbourhoods. The project has three strands of activity: to introduce new clean and safe green spaces; to increase recycling; and to introduce energy and water efficiency programmes.*

(iii) Common Assessment Form (CAF) performance measure – officers agree that there needs to be a clear understanding of the issues and individual partner responsibility for achieving CAF targets and will examine how this can best be reflected in quarterly monitoring reports by the start of the new financial year;

(iv) Measures relating to vulnerable adults and children – officers agree that there needs to be a distinction made between direct Medway Council provision or provision by a private provider - and will examine how this can best be reflected in quarterly monitoring reports, by the start of the new financial year;

(v) Community Officers satisfaction – this service is under review, examining the balance of enforcement and other responsibilities as part of Better for Less, and it may be appropriate to consider its success measures and targets once that review has been implemented and new baseline surveys of customers have been undertaken.

(vi) Walking Buses – it has been clarified that the proposed measure will capture the number of children taking part as it is planned to increase the number of children participating in the walking bus initiative to an annual average of 800 pupils in 2013/14, in partnership with the KM Walk to School Charity.

(vii) Child protection, introduction of a measure indicating outcomes achieved for children. The service is supportive of a measure that would reflect the views of young people and if Cabinet is in agreement, consideration will be given to a means of capturing this with a view to it being specified before the start of the 2013-14 financial year and included in the quarterly monitoring process monitoring

### **3. Recommendation**

- 3.1 The views of Cabinet are invited on the issues raised by the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the comments of officers.

#### **Lead officer contact**

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