

CABINET

7 FEBRUARY 2017

COUNCIL PLAN REFRESH 2017/18

ADDENDUM REPORT

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Adrian Gulvin, Resources

Report from/Authors: Stephanie Goad, Assistant Director, Transformation
Michael Turner, Democratic Services Officer

Summary

This addendum report sets out the comments of the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee which discussed this matter on 31 January 2017.

1. Background

1.1 The Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report which summarised proposed changes to the Council Plan 2016/21 which included:

- 1 new programme
- 6 additional new council plan measures of success (from 38 in 2016/17 to 44 in 2017/18)
- 3 deferred council plan measures
- 7 changes to targets.

1.2 Members discussed the following:

1.2.1 NI156 (Number of households living in temporary accommodation – a Member expressed concern that there were not any supplementary indicators supporting this target given that there were a number of factors involved in this issue.

1.2.2 NI154 (net additional homes provided) – a Member referred to the target of 1,000 dwellings per year and noted that this was considerably below the Local Plan Target and did not reflect the current backlog of 5-6,000 units. He commented that a much higher figure was needed which would make a difference and prevent homelessness issues. The Assistant Director – Transformation replied that the 1,000 figure related to the last objective needs assessment carried out in 2014. Further work had been undertaken following latest National Planning Guidance but that had not yet been formally adopted. This would be confirmed through the adoption of the Local Plan.

1.3 The Committee agreed to:

- 1.3.1 Note the proposed changes to programmes, key measures of success and targets as summarised in Appendix A to ensure the delivery of the Plan remains focused, informative and relevant, and;
- 1.3.2 Ask that Cabinet consider the comments in relation to sub indicators and revising upwards the target for the number of net additional homes provided

2. Director's comments

- 2.1 The Committee asked for consideration of sub indicators to track the underlying causes of homelessness that impact on the use of temporary accommodation, e.g. employment. This would be inconsistent with the approach generally adopted in the council plan which has been to include indicators that measure the impact of council interventions, rather than broader Medway population outcomes.
- 2.2 In relation to the target for delivery of additional homes, the plan as drafted included the most up to date target formally adopted by the council which relates to 2014. Members were correct in identifying that this has been superseded by further objective assessment of need using National Planning Guidance, and assumptions included in the work ongoing to prepare the Local Plan. It is proposed that the target of 1000 is deleted from the draft Council Plan that is to be recommended to Full Council, and that officers continue to refine the target as part of the development of the Local Plan. This target will be reported to Members in due course.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 The Cabinet is asked to consider the comments and recommendations from the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to sub indicators and revising upwards the target for the number of net additional homes provided.

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