

CABINET

6 FEBRUARY 2018

COUNCIL PLAN REFRESH 2018/19

ADDENDUM REPORT

Portfolio holder: Councillor Adrian Gulvin, Resources

Report from: Phil Watts, Chief Finance Officer

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Summary

This addendum report sets out the comments of the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee which considered the Council Plan Refresh 2018/19 report on 30 January 2018.

1. Background

1.1 Committee Members raised a number of questions which were responded to by Officers as follows:

- **The Local Plan** – It was confirmed that the Local Plan was included in the Council Plan but was not referred to in the report as this focused on amendments to the plan.
- **Jobs, Skills and Employability Programme** – A Member's request that the phrase 'lifelong learning' be incorporated into the text would be considered.
- **Maximising Regeneration and Economic Growth Priority** – At present it was not possible to state the position of Medway's economy as a whole compared with the rest of England as officers are analysing recently released data from the Office of National Statistics.
- **Medway: A Place to be Proud of Priority** – The measures taken to meet the target for NI 195a, improved street and environmental cleanliness – Litter - Medway is split into 22 wards which are inspected yearly with a total of 1,200 sites being inspected. (100 sites x 12 months = 1,200 sites per year). For Q3, 300 sites were inspected and 289 were an acceptable standard. An area of 50

meters is visually inspected for the amount of litter present and graded. A - B grades are acceptable for litter, C – D grades are unacceptable. These A to D grades are provided by DeFRA. It was requested that the location of sites visited be forwarded to members of the Business Support and Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

2. Chief Finance Officer's comments

- 2.1 With reference to the Jobs, Skills and Employability Programme (see section 4 on page 107 of the main agenda), the Council's focus on skills covers all ages - from primary school (Yr 6) to Higher Level Degrees; as such the addition of lifelong learning is consistent with the Council's overarching skills principle and its supporting priorities.
- 2.2 The effect of the recommendation from the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be to amend this programme as follows (in bold italics):

4	<p>Programme: jobs, skills and employability</p> <p>Replace: 'Promote employment and skills for young people through the development of a 16-19 strategy (including apprenticeships), resulting in increased youth employment, training and education participation' with:</p> <p><u>The Medway Skills Board, established in 2017, is to champion skills development to all ages. A Skills Plan for Medway will be completed in 2018 and focus on the Council's 5 skills priorities. This plan will incorporate the objectives of the 16 – 19 Youth Strategy, alongside interests such as apprenticeships, degree apprenticeship and internships to support lifelong learning.</u></p> <p>Programme outcome: replace 'Equip people with the skills needed to secure opportunities in Medway's future economy' with: <u>'Improve employability via uniting skills supply and demand.'</u></p>
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3. Recommendation

- 3.1 The Cabinet is asked to consider the comments of the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee including the specific recommendation to amend the jobs, skills and employability programme as set out in paragraph 2.2 of the addendum report.

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