

## CABINET

**28 SEPTEMBER 2010**

### **COUNCIL PLAN REVIEW (POLICY FRAMEWORK)**

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

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#### **Summary**

This report presents Cabinet with proposed amendments to the Council Plan in light of changes to some inspection regimes and in year budget reductions agreed by Council on 29 July 2010. Cabinet is asked to recommend these amendments to Council on 14 October 2010 for approval, in accordance with the Council's policy framework rules.

**Please note that the Appendix 1 has been circulated separately to Cabinet Members, Group Rooms and is also available at the Council's main receptions and on the Council's website via**

**<http://democracy.medway.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=115&MId=2104&Ver=4>**

**Further copies are also available from the Cabinet Office. Please contact 01634 332509/332008 for further details**

#### **1. Budget and policy framework**

1.1 This document reports proposed changes to the Council Plan for consideration and recommendation by Cabinet for referral to Council (14 October 2010) for approval, in accordance with the Council's policy framework rules.

#### **2. Background**

2.1 In February 2010 Council agreed the Council Plan 2010-13, setting out the key outcomes and actions to be achieved in the medium term, together with the key indicators which will be used to measure achievement.

2.2 Since the Council Plan was agreed in February 2010, the national policy and financial landscape has been transformed with the election of the Coalition Government. This includes its Coalition agreement and the announcement of significant in year budget cuts, with further more wide-ranging reductions expected to be announced later in the year to take effect from 2011/12 onwards. The current Council Plan was drawn up prior to these significant announcements and it is now prudent to review it to ensure it continues to reflect council priorities, current

inspection requirements, is achievable within current resources and allows Members and senior managers to track effectively the achievement of the council's priorities.

- 2.3 The actions proposed for removal from the Council Plan, set out in appendix 1 highlighted in yellow, were initially discussed at Cabinet on 7 September 2010. Following this meeting the proposed changes have been discussed at Overview and Scrutiny meetings. The policy framework dictates that following these scrutiny committee meetings the changes to a policy framework document must be considered by Cabinet and then approved by Council (paragraph 2.2 of the Budget and Policy Framework rules, part 3 of chapter 4 of the Constitution).

#### **4 Feedback from other Overview and Scrutiny Committees**

- 4.1 The Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee is the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider and recommend its views on the amendments to the Council Plan and will discuss this report on 23 September 2010. The Cabinet will receive an addendum report setting out its views.

- 4.2 In addition, the remaining Overview and Scrutiny Committees have also been informed of the proposed changes:

- The Children and Adults Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the proposed changes at its meeting on 9 September 2010.
- The Regeneration, Community and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee will discuss the proposed changes on 29 September 2010 as will the Heath and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 30 September 2010. The views from these Committees will be reported to Council on 14 October 2010.

#### **5 Risk management**

- 5.1 The purpose of the Council Plan is to enable Members to manage the key risks identified to the council delivering the priorities set out in the Council Plan.

#### **6 Financial and legal implications**

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report. The revisions to the Council Plan reflect the reductions to funding expectations already agreed by Council on 29 July 2010 and the impact they will have.

#### **7 Recommendation**

- 7.1 Cabinet is asked to recommend to Council the proposal to change the Council Plan actions and measures highlighted in appendix 1, in accordance with the Council's policy framework rules.

#### **8 Suggested reasons for decision**

- 8.1 It is important that the Council Plan reflects the current position and reflects changes to some inspection regimes and in year budget reductions.

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**Background papers**

Council Plan 2010-11