

CABINET

7 FEBRUARY 2023

COUNCIL PLAN REFRESH 2023/24

Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Adrian Gulvin, Portfolio Holder for Resources
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Summary

The Council Strategy sets out the Council's key priorities, the outcomes we expect to achieve and the programmes that we will deliver. The Council Plan is the delivery plan which sets out the measures that will be used to track performance against the Council's key priorities.

Following consultation with directorates, this report proposes the Council Plan 2023/24.

The report was considered by the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 25 January 2023. The comments of the Committee will be set out in an addendum report.

Following consideration of the report by the Cabinet, the proposals will be presented to Full Council on 23 February 2023, for implementation from April 2023.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 The current Council Strategy and Council Plan 2022/23, agreed at Full Council in February 2022, ends at the end of March 2023.
- 1.2 To ensure the Council Strategy and Council Plan remain relevant and focused, the key programmes, key measures of success and targets are subject to an annual review process.
- 1.3 The annual refresh of performance measures for 2023/24 has now taken place. Following consultation with directorates, this report proposes the performance measures for 2023/24. The priorities, programmes and outcomes were reviewed as part of the Council Strategy refresh and reported to Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 25 August 2022.
- 1.4 Both the Council Strategy and the Council Plan form part of the Council's Policy

Framework, therefore, these proposals will be considered by Council on 23 February 2023.

2. Background

- 2.1 At the Corporate Management Team meeting on 12 August 2020, it was agreed to produce a short-term two-year Council Strategy and Council Plan for 2021/22 and 2022/23, to focus on the recovery from Covid19.
- 2.2 The Council Plan has been reviewed by Directorate Management Teams (DMTs).
- 2.3 The refreshed Council Plan performance measures can be found at Appendix 1. These are split across the Council Plan priorities and values as follows:

Priority and outcome	Proposed Council Plan measures 2023/24	Council Plan measures 2022/23
Healthy and active communities	7	6
Resilient families	12	14
Older and disabled people living independently in their homes	5	5
All children achieving their potential in education	8	9
A clean and green environment	3	3
Put Medway on the map	0	0
A strong diversified economy	3	3
Residents with jobs and skills	4	4
Preventing homelessness	3	3
Delivering new homes to meet the needs of Medway's residents	1	1
Getting around Medway	1	1
Values		
Financial Resilience	2	2
Digital Enablement	0	0
Creativity and Innovation	0	0
Tackle Climate Change	0	0
Working together to empower communities	0	0
Child-friendly	0	0
TOTAL	49	51

- 2.4 The information for Council Plan measures where targets have not yet been set, or where further data is required before targets can be proposed, is likely to be received after the Council Plan Refresh 2023/24 has been discussed at Full Council. It is therefore proposed that Full Council be asked to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources, to agree the final measures once the data is received.

3. Diversity Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council has legal duties to pay 'due regard' to the need to eliminate discrimination and promote equality. The Council has a clear diversity impact assessment process which describes how changes to service delivery or new services and policies should be assessed for impact and the requirement for regular review of the equality impact of services and strategies.
- 3.2 A Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) has been completed for the refreshed Council Strategy and Plan and can be found in Appendix 2.

4. Financial and Legal implications

- 4.1 The Council Strategy and Plan are developed alongside the budget setting process, to ensure the financial implications are considered during the development of the priorities and measures. Implementation of a performance management framework allows the Council to evidence how successful it is in achieving against its stated objectives, and for residents it provides genuine accountability on how successfully the Council is administering its resources.
- 4.2 There is no longer a statutory requirement to have a Council Strategy or Plan. This means that they are no longer listed as a plan or strategy which must be adopted by Council in the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000. However, Council has decided to retain both as policy framework documents within the Council's Constitution and thus a decision on refreshing them must be taken by Full Council.

5. Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 5.1 The Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 25 January 2023 and its comments will be set out in an addendum report within a supplementary agenda.
- 5.2 At this meeting Members were verbally informed of the proposal to remove the performance measure CASEIEYFS Gap ('Percentage achievement gap at Early Years Foundation Stage Profile between the lowest attaining 20 % of children and the mean') due to this measure being discontinued by the Department for Education. This is reflected in Appendix 1 and the table in section 2.3 above.

6. Risk management

- 6.1 Risks related to the delivery of the Council Strategy and Council Plan are managed through the Strategic Risk Register in line with the Risk Management Strategy. The Risk Management process helps the Council understand, evaluate, and act on all their risks. It supports effective decision making, identification of priorities and objectives and increases the probability of success by making the most of opportunities and reducing the likelihood of failure.

