

CABINET – 16 JULY 2019

CITY PLAN “SUNDERLAND 2019-2030”

Report of Director of People, Communications and Partnerships

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report submits for consideration the City Plan “Sunderland 2019-2030”.

2.0 Description of Decision (Recommendations)

- 2.1 Cabinet is requested to consider the contents of the City Plan “Sunderland 2019-2030” and recommend it to Council for approval.

3.0 Context

- 3.1 The council's performance management framework contains several related components in respect of the council's priorities, delivery actions, milestones, performance measures and targets.
- 3.2 These components enable the council to describe its roles and responsibilities in respect of addressing the challenges Sunderland and its communities face, identifying the activity it will undertake and the targets and measures which will be used to understand progress.
- 3.3 A council plan has a key role in these arrangements in forming the basis for the council's strategic direction and key priorities and the means of managing them.
- 3.4 It was previously a statutory requirement that councils produce a strategic plan bringing together their Medium Term Financial Strategy, service plans, objectives and performance outturns and targets. This requirement was removed by the Coalition Government in 2010.
- 3.5 However, the council has remained committed to robust strategic planning, openness and accountability to stakeholders and has therefore determined to clearly articulate its strategic direction and approach in previous Corporate Plans and now in the City Plan “Sunderland 2019-2030” (“City Plan”).

4.0 Current Position

- 4.1 The City Plan will be the council's overarching strategic plan for the period 2019/2020 to 2029/2030.
- 4.2 The Final Draft of the City Plan is attached to this report as an Appendix.
- 4.3 The Final Draft City Plan covers:
- The key Challenges facing Sunderland
 - A Vision for the city and Values for the council which provide the focus for the council's activity in respect of addressing those Challenges and other key issues for the city

- Three Key Themes – Dynamic City, Healthy City and Vibrant City - which are used to organise the council’s aims in respect of the Challenges and the other key issues
- Five Commitments for each Key Theme under which the council’s Activities in respect of addressing the Challenges and the other key issues are aligned
- A Timeline of Activities illustrating the council’s actions across all of the Key Themes for the years 2019-2020 to 2024-2025 and the five-year period 2025-2030

- 4.4 Progress in respect of the City Plan will be managed via the Corporate Performance Management arrangements which identify Key Milestones, Performance Measures, Targets and accountabilities for each of the City Plan Timeline Activities.
- 4.5 The Corporate Performance Management arrangements are implemented through the monthly Performance Clinics process and quarterly reporting to Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee and Cabinet.
- 4.6 The City Plan will be underpinned by delivery and project level plans, and individual appraisal arrangements which will break down City Plan content into operational and management activity to create a clear “golden thread” of empowerment, responsibility and accountability from the council’s ambitions to service and individual activity and vice-versa.
- 4.7 The final City Plan will primarily be published electronically on the council’s website and The Hub with limited printed copies created as necessary.

5.0 Reasons for the Decision

- 5.1 Production of a corporate plan is required under the council’s Constitution, as an Article 4 Plan.
- 5.2 The City Plan is considered to fulfil the role of a corporate plan as the primary statement of both the council’s and the city’s strategic direction and key priorities.

6.0 Alternative Options

- 6.1 Alternative Options considered and rejected as part of the process of developing the Corporate Plan were:

Option 1. Do Nothing: This option was not considered appropriate as the council would not have a corporate plan that captured and expressed in simple terms the council’s strategic direction and intentions for the years 2019-2030.

Option 2. Produce a Corporate Plan: This option was not considered appropriate as a Corporate Plan is considered no longer suitable as the primary statement of both the council’s and the city’s strategic direction and key priorities in the context of Government cuts and cost pressures or the council’s role and responsibilities in respect of addressing the key challenges Sunderland and its communities face.

7.0 Impact Analysis

Equalities - The City Plan forms the basis for how promoting equality and reducing inequalities is fundamental to council’s approach. Further to this the City Plan is subject to Equalities Analysis, through the delivery activities underpinning it, which will be subject to Equality Analyses at the appropriate stage of their development.

Sustainability - The City Plan is subject to a Sustainability Analysis, through the delivery activities underpinning it, which will be subject to Sustainability Analyses at the appropriate stage of their development

8.0 Other Considerations/Consultations

Co-operative Values – At Annual Council in May 2015, it was resolved that the following statement be included in the Constitution to reflect the values of the “Cooperative Council”.

“Sunderland City Council is a co-operative council and in being so will act ethically in all its actions while adhering to and actively promoting its co-operative values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. These values will underpin its decision making and actions.”

As the council’s sole strategic plan and the key means of articulating and communicating the council’s priorities and direction in leading the citywide response to the key challenges impacting on Sunderland, the City Plan lies at the heart of the council’s approach as a “Co-operative Council”.

Financial Implications – Any financial implications arising as a result of actions set out in the City Plan can be met through existing budget provision or will be included within the medium term financial strategy as appropriate, and subject to the annual approval process.

Legal Implications – The Assistant Director of Law and Governance has been consulted to ensure that correct process is followed for the formal adoption of the City Plan as part of the council’s Policy Framework under Article 4 of the Constitution.

Policy Implications – The development of the City Plan has been coordinated by the Director of People, Communications and Partnerships.

The City Plan has been shared and developed in conjunction with the Chief Officer Group, Assistant Directors, Corporate SMT, the Cabinet and Sunderland Partnership.

9.0 List of Appendices

Appendix: City Plan “Sunderland 2019-2030”

10.0 Background Papers

City Plan “Sunderland 2019-2030” working draft presentations

Appendix: Final Draft City Plan “Sunderland 2019-2030”

