

Report of the Chief Executive

## **Council Plan – 2011 to 2015 – Delivering for the People of York.**

### **Summary**

1. This report seeks Council approval for the Council Plan.

The Council Plan sets out the priorities for City of York Council over the next four years. It has been informed by the Sustainable Communities Strategy and previous CYC Corporate Strategy, which it now replaces. The Plan is built around 5 specific priorities;

- Create jobs and grow the economy
- Get York moving
- Build strong communities
- Protect vulnerable people
- Protect the environment

The plan also looks at how the Council needs to work in the future in order to achieve the objectives set out in the plan. These underpinning qualities have been incorporated into a set of core capabilities;

- A confident, collaborative organisation
- Completely in touch with our communities
- A relentless focus on our priorities

## **Background**

2. The Council faces some significant challenges in the next four years, both from the Government's broad agenda on Local Government and from existing city wide issues such as transport. All of this is set within the tightest budget framework for years.
- 3 The Council Plan responds to this challenge by focusing on 5 key priorities –

### ***Create jobs and grow the economy***

- 4 A strong and growing economy will provide new job opportunities and the ability for residents to achieve a high quality of life for themselves and their families. The Council will work with businesses to create an additional 1000 jobs per annum with an emphasis on employment in high tech or science and financial, creative or professional services. Work will be taken forward to ensure that the city is at the forefront of digital connectivity.

### ***Get York moving***

- 5 An effective transport system is critical to the success of York. Supporting and developing public transport services and enabling and encouraging more walking and cycling provide a means to tackle congestion. An emphasis moving forwards on these more sustainable transport options will bring wider benefits – air quality will improve, people will be healthier, pollution will reduce, access for disadvantaged communities will be better and our built environment will be enhanced.

### ***Build strong communities***

- 6 York wants to be a cooperative, enabling council that harnesses the enterprising spirit of local people to remodel council services including new delivery mechanisms. Communities will increasingly be empowered to influence and shape the services they receive and to know that any issues they raise with the council will be responded to quickly and effectively.

### ***Protect vulnerable people***

- 7 Over 7000 vulnerable adults benefit from an adult social care service in York – a number that will grow given demographic changes. The council's objective is to safeguard such adults, to

promote their independence, enable them to make real life choices, and give them control over their daily lives. Although York's residents overall enjoy better health than the national average, there are still quite startling inequalities between different parts of the city. The council is working to tackle the inequality and poverty that is at the heart of disadvantage for so many vulnerable people.

### ***Protect the environment***

- 8 The council recognises its fundamental responsibility to future generations to promote and invest in sustainability. Activities have been initiated at a local level to contribute to national and international commitments to reduce carbon emissions, recycle or minimise the impact of waste and prepare for the impact of a changing climate on our communities.
- 9 In order to deliver the Council Plan it will be necessary to drive consistently high performance from across all services and to encourage new ways of delivery. In response to this, the Council will embed as core capabilities a confident and collaborative approach to delivering results from our customers, a complete understanding of communities and a relentless focus on our priorities. In areas, like social work, where there are skills shortages nationally, there will be a focus will be on recruitment and retention.

### **Consultation**

- 10 The Council Plan has been developed through a process of consultation with officers in the Council, partners in the city and the Cabinet.

### **Corporate Priorities**

11. When agreed, the Council Plan would represent the corporate priorities of the Council. It will replace the previous corporate strategy. The Council Plan would also initiate the development of supporting strategies such as the Workforce Development Strategy and Procurement Strategy. It will also influence the direction of statutory strategies such as the Homeless Strategy.

## Implications

- 12 **Financial** – The Council Plan reflects the work set in train through the 2010/11 budget process. Initiation of work within the Council Plan will be subject to the normal budgeting processes.

**Human Resources (HR)** – The Council Plan will inform the Workforce Development Strategy. Council Plan objectives will also be incorporated in individual staff PDRs.

**Equalities** – The Council Plan is intended to promote activities to make York and even fairer city. Initiation of work will be subject to the normal equalities impact assessments.

**Legal -**

**Crime and Disorder - None**

**Information Technology (IT) - None**

**Property- None**

## 13 Recommendations

The following decisions are sought -

- Council is requested to approve the Council Plan and the priorities it sets for the next 4 years.

## Contact Details

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Report Approved



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