

Executive

24 September 2015

Report of the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council

Draft Council Plan 2015-19: Report on the Consultation Exercise

Summary

1. This report summarises the findings of the recent consultation on the Council Plan and proposes some amendments.

Recommendations

2. Members are asked to:
 - a) note the results of the consultation process
 - b) approve the changes proposed which have been incorporated in the updated Annex B
 - c) refer the plan to Full Council for adoption

Reason: To ensure that the Council Plan incorporates residents views.

Background

3. The Council Plan sets out the priorities for the Council for the next four years. It is based on the priorities of the new administration and the Council's statutory responsibilities.

The Plan is built around 3 key priorities:

- **A Prosperous City For All.**
- **A Focus On Frontline Services.**
- **A Council That Listens To Residents**

Consultation results

4. Consultation took place during July and August 2015 and full details of the approach and results are contained in Annex A. The complete set of responses will also be made available on the Council's website in due course. Feedback from residents identified a number of themes. Residents had difficulty understanding the plan and this may be related to the format in which it was presented. Once the plan is agreed it is important it is presented in an easy to understand format. It was clear that many residents did not understand the term 'frontline services' therefore it is important that the plan, once agreed makes this clear.
5. However, there was broad support for the overall aims contained in the sections on prosperity and **frontline services**. Residents made many comments about the council itself and how it currently works with suggestions on greater collaboration and reduction of duplication between organisations. Prioritisation was seen as key however services might be delivered. There still seems to be an untapped capacity for support from residents in volunteering or being involved in other ways such as giving feedback. This came out strongly in the online consultation and in the Children and Young People's Plan consultation.
6. There were areas that residents felt were omitted or under-represented in the plan and should feature more. It was felt that transport and housing did not come out strongly enough. Transport also featured as an important issue in the Children and Young People's consultation. Many residents took a pragmatic view on tourism saying we need to promote the city more and encourage tourism although they also felt this should not be at the expense of residents. Health and social care was rated as the most important service and wider wellbeing issues were mentioned in the Children and Young People's consultation. Environmental issues such as waste and recycling were mentioned as important and an area where residents could make a difference working with the council.

Proposed changes

7. Two areas identified as under-represented in the plan should be strengthened
 - Transport (across all issues both infrastructure and access to modes of transport) to support prosperity
 - Housing (balancing development with clear housing need)

In addition other strategic level work whilst not part of this consultation process identified the need for York to take more of leading role both

regionally and nationally. This should be better reflected in the aspiration of the Council Plan.

8. In order to improve clarity three additional changes could be made
 - Under a focus on frontline services - combine the final two points on clean and safe environments to read
 - *Ensure the city centre, villages and neighbourhoods are clean and safe environments*
 - Under a Prosperous City for All – consider changing the text that reads
 - Ensure business cases for capital projects are assessed in a robust and evidence-based way to read *all projects*
 - Under a Council that listens to residents – split the text into the same format as the other two priorities to ensure a consistent format.

These changes have been incorporated into Annex B

Next Steps

9. Once approved by Full Council, the Plan will be made available for residents, businesses and stakeholders in an appropriate accessible format by December this year. The priorities reflected in the Council Plan and the agreed Budget will be embedded into the approach to Service Planning for 2016/17. The resulting Service Plans will be made available through the council's website when completed by 1 May 2016.
10. As the Council Plan reflects a wide breadth of service delivery it needs an accurate, transparent and easy to understand set of performance measures. The Business Intelligence team is now working on a proposal for a scorecard alongside reviewing available measures. Once the Council Plan is agreed delivery plans will be developed alongside service plans with performance management processes put in place. The intention would be to ensure this is transparent by using the Open Data platform.

11. Implications

a) Financial

The priorities reflected in the Plan will be taken forward through the Budget process which will determine relative priorities and funding pressures.

b) Human Resources (HR)

The Council Plan will inform future development of the Workforce Development Strategy. It will also, through the service planning process, inform individual staff Performance Development Reviews, establishing the clear link between the Council's strategic objectives, and the work of every member of staff.

c) Equalities

Initiation of work to deliver the priorities set out in the Plan will be subject to the usual equalities impact assessments.

d) Legal

None

e) Crime and Disorder

None

f) Information Technology (IT)

None.

g) Property

None

h) Other

None

Risk Management

12. Risks to delivery of the priorities set out in the Plan will be identified and managed through service planning and, where appropriate, reflected in the Corporate Risk Register

Contact Details

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Report Approved

Date 14 September 2015

Specialist Implications Officer(s) *List information for all*

Financial: Ian Floyd
Director of Customer & Business Support Services

Legal : Andrew Docherty
Assistant Director Governance & ICT

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

Attachment:

Annex A – Consultation Report
Annex B - Draft Council Plan 2015-19