

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO:	Sustainability, Planning and Climate Change Portfolio Holder	11 November 2011
	Northstowe and New Communities Portfolio Holder Economic Development Portfolio Holder	15 November 2011
AUTHOR/S:	Executive Director Operational Services/ Corporate Manager Planning and New Communities	

PLANNING AND NEW COMMUNITIES – AGREEMENT OF SERVICE PRIORITIES FOR 2012-13

Purpose

1. This report sets out service priorities for Planning and New Communities for 2012-13, presented for Portfolio Holder approval as the basis for the development of the full service plan.
2. This is not a key decision as it relates to approval for a series of draft priorities which will be developed into specific actions and targets as part of the emerging full service plan.

Recommendations

3. The Portfolio Holder is recommended to agree the emerging priorities set out in paragraph 9 as the basis for the development of the Planning and New Communities Service plan for 2012-13, noting the resource requirements, which will be addressed as part of the review of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. The recommendation is required to enable Portfolio Holder endorsement for service priorities to inform the development of 2012-13 service plans.

Background

5. The service planning timetable in previous years required full draft service overview and improvement plans to be submitted to Portfolio Holders for approval in November, with final plans following in March, following the agreement of the Council's budget and policy framework for the following year. In order to enable a clearer focus on strategic priorities and to enable effective planning, this guidance has been altered in 2011 so that service priorities are approved in October / November as the basis for emerging service plans, with full and final plans being published in March 2012.
6. The Cabinet approved a set of priorities for Economic Development on 8 September 2011. The paper included ten actions for 2011/12 and 2012/13 derived from the Economic Strategy approved by the Planning Portfolio Holder on 8 March 2011. The Portfolio Holder approved a Climate Change Action Plan setting out priorities for the next twelve months on 9 September 2011. The agreed priorities for Economic Development and Climate Change will be carried forward into the Service Plan 2012/13 (see paragraph 10 sections c,d,e,f and n)

Considerations – Policy Context

7. There are major national policy drivers that will influence Planning and New Communities during 2012/13 such as
 - National Planning Policy Framework (published in draft)
 - Localism Act
 - The Green Deal
 - The drive for economic growth with new programmes such as the Growing Places Fund
8. More locally, there are drivers and initiatives that are very relevant. These include
 - Customer demand for improved planning and conservation service
 - Establishment of Greater Cambridgeshire and Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership, with new strategic planning arrangements
 - Continued priority to improve the A14, in order to support the local economy and development of Northstowe
 - Ongoing need for effective partnership working including with Cambridge City and Cambridgeshire County Councils on strategic growth sites

Considerations – service plan priorities

9. The corporate priorities for 2012/13 include continuing to improve the core planning and conservation service; a focus on clear programmes to support business and tackle climate change; delivery of new communities and development of the new Local Development Framework.
10. The proposed priorities for the Planning and New Communities service are:
 - a. A resilient and responsive planning service delivering corporate priorities including high levels of customer satisfaction and performance
 - b. A Local Development Plan based on effective engagement with members and parishes, and reflecting corporate priorities
 - c. Working with partners to improve digital infrastructure
 - d. Supporting existing, developing and new businesses – being Open for Business
 - e. Improving marketing to promote inward investment to South Cambridgeshire
 - f. Working with the LEP and other economic development partners to address the needs of business (including improvements to the A14)
 - g. Implement recommendations of the enforcement review as they relate to Planning and New Communities to ensure consistent approaches (with Health and Environmental Services)
 - h. Work with partners to deliver an effective collaborative approach to strategic planning
 - i. Ensure that infrastructure to support developments is planned ahead of time, including adequate drainage, cycle paths and recreation facilities (in partnership with the Environment Agency, County Council, Parish Councils and others)
 - j. Maximise benefits to the community from new developments, through development of Community Infrastructure Levy and continued enhancement of our approach towards s106 agreements
 - k. Ensure the effective delivery of Northstowe and other new communities (including establishment of new Joint Northstowe Team with the County Council)
 - l. Work with partners to encourage local environmental enhancements including the Chalk Rivers Project and more community orchards
 - m. Develop a sustainable process to address the housing needs of gypsies and travellers (with Housing Services)
 - n. Work with local communities and businesses to develop and deliver actions on climate change that make a difference
 - o. Ensure the effective delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan and the development of the Youth Council (with Democratic Services)

p. Take forward sports programmes in the Olympic year.

Considerations – Resources

11. There will be some resource reallocation through the management restructure proposed for 2012. Most priorities will be delivered through existing resources, however there are some additional demands. Outline business cases have been submitted for consideration during the budget setting process relating to:
- Joint Northstowe Team: to ensure effective development management
 - Climate Change and Sustainability: to support the Sustainable Parish Energy Partnership and introduction of the Green Deal
 - Business support: to strengthen a corporate approach towards economic development

Options

12. The Portfolio Holder is invited to endorse the service priorities as presented; however, he may alter or amend the priorities, having regard to the policy context within which the service operates and to the needs of customers.

Implications

13. Financial	As set out in paragraphs 11 above
Legal	None directly arising from this report
Staffing	As set out in paragraphs 11 above
Risk Management	The final service plan will include a section summarising key risks affecting the service and measures to mitigate against them.
Equality and Diversity	See below
Equality Impact Assessment completed	Yes Specific services are subject to full Equality Impact Assessments upon agreement and review.
Climate Change	Key priority for the service

Consultations

14. Draft service plans and Council Actions will be subject to specific internal and external consultation prior to formal adoption, including with the LEP, County Council and City Council.

Consultation with Children and Young People

15. A programme will be developed so that Children and Young People are consulted on the contents of the Corporate Plan and Service Plans.

Effect on Strategic Aims

16. The service plan proposals will contribute to the delivery of all the council's strategic objectives, linking the Aims, Approaches and Actions through a Golden Thread to service-level priority action plans and individual objectives.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report: Service Plan 2011/12, Economic Priorities 2011/12 and 2012.13, Climate Change Action Plan

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