

Open Report on behalf of Judith Hetherington Smith, Chief Information and Commissioning Office

Report to:	County Council
Date:	20 February 2015
Subject:	Council Business Plan 2015 – 2016

Summary:

This report presents the outcomes and measures that are the Council Business Plan 2015 - 2016. The Council Business Plan is part of the Budget and Policy Framework and must be approved by full Council.

Recommendation:

Council approve the Council Business Plan 2015 - 2016.

1. Background

The recent changes in organisational structure, and focus on a commissioning approach, lead to a need to change the Council's Business Plan to report on the outcomes of the agreed 17 commissioning strategies.

The Council is also looking, where ever possible, to create channel shift to less costly ways of doing business with a move to more self-service. As such it makes sense to have a web based business plan that is the outcomes and measures from the commissioning strategies rather than duplicate information already provided elsewhere. Examples include the Leader's Statement, the budget (which is expected to be formally agreed by Council in February) and demographic and contextual information, provided by the Lincolnshire Research Observatory.

Once the outcomes and measures that are the Council Business Plan have been agreed by Council, we will commission an IT system to report progress against Council Business Plan performance. This will then provide elected members with a mechanism to hold commissioning strategy leads to account. A list of commissioning strategy leads is provided in Appendix B.

Commissioning strategies

To have a manageable mechanism for organising the Council Business Plan, the commissioning strategies have been organised in the following four headings:-

1. Our communities are safe and protected from harm.

2. The health and wellbeing of the population is improved, people remain independent for longer and feel responsible and in control of their own future.
3. Businesses are supported to grow and want to invest in the county; people have the skills and training to access local jobs, supported by the right infrastructure and environment.
4. We effectively target our resources, so that individuals and communities experience the desired benefits and results.

Expected performance in 2015/2016

The targets for expected performance in 2015/2016 are, in the main, based on Q2 performance and therefore may need to be updated in light of 2014/15 out turns and as the commissioning strategies are developed. Any changes will be discussed with the Portfolio Holder and presented in the performance reports to scrutiny and the Executive.

2. Conclusion

The outcomes and measures in Appendix A represent the Council Business Plan 2015/2016.

3. Legal Comments:

The decision to approve the Council Business Plan is within the remit of Full Council.

4. Resource Comments:

The financial resources required to deliver this plan are included in the Council budget which will also be considered by Council at its meeting on 20th February.

5. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

Not applicable

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

c) Scrutiny Comments

The draft Plan was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 29th January. Committee commented on the focus on expected outcomes and suggested that measures relating to supporting young people

leaving care be considered for inclusion in the Council Business Plan. This has been agreed by the Executive Director for Children's and 16-18 year old Looked After Children participating in Learning; and Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation have been included in the Council Business Plan.

d) Policy Proofing Actions Required

The Council's obligations under the Equality Act 2010 need to be taken into account by the Executive when considering the Plan.

The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

(1) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;

(2) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;

(3) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it: Equality Act 2010 s 149(1). The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation: s 149(7).

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

(1) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;

(2) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;

(3) encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

(4) The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

(5) Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice, and promote understanding.

(6) Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.

This duty cannot be delegated and must be discharged by the Executive.

In relation to the business plan, this is effectively made up of council priority activities, performance indicators and targets. It is the responsibility of each project manager to make sure equality considerations and an impact analysis of the project on different groups is undertaken as part of the project start up and design. Action from impact analysis are monitored through project reporting. The performance indicators reflect activities expressed in numerical terms. It is the responsibility of each service when it makes a change, stops, or starts a new service to make sure equality considerations and an impact analysis are completed.

6. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Council Business Plan 2015 - 2016
Appendix B	Commissioning Strategy Leads

7. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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