

EDUCATION & YOUTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Friday 28 th July, 2017
Report Subject	Council (Improvement) Plan 2017-23
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Education
Report Author	Chief Officer – Education & Youth
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council (Improvement) Plan for 2017-23 has been reviewed and refreshed to reflect the key priorities of the Council for the 5 year term of the new administration.

The super-structure of the plan remains the same as previous plans and now comprises of six priorities and relevant sub priorities. The six priorities take a long term view of projects and ambitions over the next five years.

The Council Plan is published in a similar format to previous years highlighting objectives and actions to achieve within each sub priority and referencing national issues which have the potential to impact upon achievement of the priorities. These issues will also be referenced, where relevant, in the next refresh of the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2017-2020.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the Committee consider the targets and milestones in the Measures and Milestones document (appendix 2) the Council (Improvement) Plan 2017-23 and provide feedback to Cabinet prior to adoption by the County Council for final publication.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	COUNCIL PLAN 2017-23
1.01	It is a requirement of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 (the Measure) to set Objectives and publish a Council Plan. It is a statutory requirement for the County Council to adopt the Council Plan.
1.02	The title of 'Improvement' Plan is changed to 'Council' Plan as the Plan is a combination of priorities service protection and growth and areas for improvement on current performance.
1.03	<p>Improvement Objectives and an accompanying Improvement Plan were first set and adopted by the Council in 2011. For 2013-14 the Council thoroughly reviewed the priorities to streamline and reset them with clearer outcome based aims which continued through to 2016-17. These have been reviewed again in light of the Well-being for Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to reflect a more outcome based approach for the priorities themselves. This has resulted in a revised set of six priorities supported by a structure of sub-priorities is proposed for adoption by the Council as follows:</p> <p>Priority: Supportive Council Sub-Priorities: Appropriate and Affordable Homes Modern, Efficient and Adapted Homes Protecting people from poverty Independent Living Integrated Community Social & Health Services Safeguarding</p> <p>Priority: Ambitious Council Sub-Priority: Business Sector Growth and Regeneration</p> <p>Priority: Learning Council Sub-Priority: Modernised High Performing Education and Training</p> <p>Priority: Green Council Sub-Priority: Sustainable Development & Environmental Management Sub-Priority: Support and enable safe and sustainable travel services</p> <p>Priority: Connected Council Sub-Priority: Developing and Inspiring Resilient Communities</p> <p>Priority: Serving Council Sub-Priority: Improving Resource Management</p>

1.04	The Plan presentation remains largely unchanged, as it has been well received and commented upon favourably. The main change has been the reduction from eight priorities to six. National policy issues have been updated and listed within each relevant sub-priority. These are issues over which we have little control and which may restrict successful and or timely delivery of our priorities. They are issues of national interest and have the potential to impact upon achievement of the priorities. These issues will also be referenced, where relevant, in the next refresh of the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2017-2020.
1.05	For each sub-priority for 2017-18 there has been a review based on:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the reasoning for the priority status; • what we will do and how we will measure achievement; and • the risks that will need to be managed.
1.06	The Council Plan in totality is presented as 2 documents that are inter-related; firstly the draft 'public' version of our statements of intent around the 6 priorities and secondly the document that describes the targets and milestones (shown at Appendix 1) on which achievement will be measured. These targets and milestones in the "How we Measure" document are being considered by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees prior to final agreement by Cabinet in September. This will be the document that is used by Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committees to monitor progress during the year. The "How we Measure" document that is relevant to this committee is attached at Appendix 2.
1.07	The final Council Plan will be available as a web-based document published on the website before the end of September following endorsement by County Council.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	Resource implications have been considered during preparation of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and will continue to be monitored during the regular budget monitoring and financial planning arrangements.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	All Overview and Scrutiny Committees have had the opportunity to consider and review the content of the draft Plan priorities including the opportunity to scrutinise targets set for 2017-18. A summary of the considerations will be appended in the September Cabinet and County Council reports.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	<p>Delivery of the Plan objectives is risk managed within each of the sub priorities of the Council Plan and monitored and reported against quarterly by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.</p> <p>The risks to the statutory requirements of the Plan include: not publishing the plan within statutory timescales and, not adhering to the prerequisite content.</p> <p>Both these risks are managed through adherence to well established procedures for i) publishing the Plan and ii) ensuring that the content of the plan reflects the requirements of the Measure.</p> <p>An additional risk is that the Plan is not endorsed by Members; consultation with Members both individually and as part of the Scrutiny process allows for full engagement.</p>

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	<p>Appendix 1: Draft Council (Improvement) Plan 2017 to 2023</p> <p>Appendix 2: Proposed “How we Measure” document</p>

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>None.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Karen Armstrong, Corporate Business and Communications Executive Officer Telephone: 01352 702740 E-mail: Karen.armstrong@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>Council Plan: the document which sets out the annual priorities of the Council. It is a requirement of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 to set Objectives and publish a Plan.</p>
7.02	<p>Medium Term Financial Strategy: a written strategy which gives a forecast of the financial resources which will be available to a Council for a given period, and sets out plans for how best to deploy those resources to meet its priorities, duties and obligations.</p>