

Report of: The Elected Mayor of Middlesbrough; Chief Executive

AGENDA ITEM 9

Submitted to: Council, 15 January 2020

Subject: Priorities of the Elected Mayor of Middlesbrough and Strategic Plan 2020-2023

Summary

Proposed decision(s)

That Council approves the Priorities of the Elected Mayor of Middlesbrough and the proposed revised Strategic Plan for the period 2020-2023, setting out how the Council will contribute to the delivery of the Mayor's priorities.

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent?
Decision	Yes – over the financial threshold, amends the Council's policy framework and affects two or more wards.	No	Not applicable

Contribution to delivery of the 2019-22 Strategic Plan

Business Imperatives

Physical Regeneration

Social Regeneration

The report refreshes the Strategic Plan for 2020-2023, ensuring that it remains current and reflective of major developments of the past year and those anticipated in the coming three years.

Ward(s) affected

Implementation of the priorities outlined within the proposed plan will positively impact on all wards in Middlesbrough.

What is the purpose of this report?

1. This report seeks Council's approval of:
 - the Priorities of the Elected Mayor of Middlesbrough; and,
 - the proposed revised Strategic Plan for the period 2020-2023, setting out how the Council will contribute to the delivery of the Mayor's priorities.

Why does this report require a member decision?

2. The Priorities of the Elected Mayor of Middlesbrough will replace the Vision for Middlesbrough in 2025 – *Fairer, Safer, Stronger* as the key, overarching, priority-setting document for the town. The Strategic Plan is the Council's overarching business plan for the medium-term, and is typically refreshed on an annual basis. This refresh responds to the revised mayoral priorities.
3. Both documents are part of the Council's Policy Framework and so require the approval of Full Council, as set out in Article 4.2 of the Constitution. Both documents were endorsed by the Executive on 20 December 2019.

Report Background

4. Full Council approved a Strategic Plan for the period 2019-2022 on 15 March 2019. In approving the plan, members were advised that the document was predicated upon mayoral priorities that would be updated following the election of a new Mayor in May 2019, and that this in turn would require a review of the Council's Strategic Plan.
5. The now elected Mayor of Middlesbrough, Andy Preston, has set out his nine key priorities for this term of office, reflecting commitments made in the 2019 Mayoral election. These are:

People	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour head-on• Ensuring Middlesbrough has the very best schools• Ensuring our town is an absolute leader on environmental issues
Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transforming our town centre with new buildings that inspire awe• Building more town centre homes – and protecting our green spaces• Making Middlesbrough look and feel amazing
Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Winning investment and creating jobs• Introducing a new era of Council transparency and openness• Creating positive perceptions of our town on a national basis

6. If approved, these priorities will supersede the priorities set out in the previous iteration of the mayoral priorities document (*Fairer, Safer, Stronger*).
7. In order to improve communications and strengthen the links between the two documents the priorities of the Elected Mayor will henceforth be set out within the Council's Strategic Plan, rather than within a separate document.
8. Appendix 1 sets out a revised Strategic Plan for the 2020-2023 period. The plan is organised around the three strategic aims of People, Place and Business, and the

strategic priorities set out in the plan have been revised to ensure that the Council optimises its contribution to the delivery of the Mayor's priorities.

9. Aside from this, other notable changes to the plan are:

- removal of the former 'How are we doing?' section, as this reported progress against the previous set of strategic priorities – this will be reinstated in future iterations of the plan to track progress against the revised priorities; and
- creation of an 'Our values and culture' section in response to the 2018/19 Internal Audit of Corporate Culture, which in effect sees the Council's HR People Strategy being subsumed within the Strategic Plan.

10. The plan continues to set out a comprehensive programme of activity to promote improved quality of life across Middlesbrough, which meets the Council's legal obligations and is within its financial means.

What decisions are being asked for?

11. That Council approves:

- the Priorities of the Elected Mayor of Middlesbrough; and,
- the proposed revised Strategic Plan for the period 2020-2023, setting out how the Council will contribute to the delivery of the Mayor's priorities.

Why is this being recommended?

12. To ensure that the Mayoral priorities remain current, and the Council's overarching business plan fit for purpose, enabling a systematic, coherent and controlled approach to addressing the Council's ongoing financial challenges over the medium-term, while maximizing its contribution to both the Mayor's and other corporate strategic priorities.

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

13. It is imperative that the Council effectively articulates and communicates an overarching plan to direct activity across Directorates towards the achievement of corporate strategic objectives. The only other feasible decisions therefore relate to the structure of the document, and its horizon (i.e. reverting to an annual plan). It is strongly in the Council's interest to plan over the medium-term, in line with the indicative budgets over this period outlined by the Government. The proposed document achieves this while providing an appropriate level of detail for all audiences on the Council's planned activity over this period.

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

Legal

14. Implementation of the Strategic Plan will enable the Council to operate within the resources available to it, and continue to meet its various statutory duties, including the overarching Duty of Best Value.

Financial

15. Activity set out in the Strategic Plan ongoing during the remainder of 2019/20 forms part of the Council's revenue and capital budgets for this year, approved by Council on 4 March 2019. Other planned activity in the period is considered to be deliverable within the agreed capital programme and the indicative revenue budgets outlined by Government, as outlined in the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan. In outlining a programme delivering performance improvement within reduced resources, the Strategic Plan demonstrates how the Council will deliver value for money for the taxpayer in the medium-term.

Policy framework

16. Both the Priorities of the Elected Mayor of Middlesbrough (Vision for Middlesbrough) and Strategic Plan (Change Strategy) form part of the Council's Policy Framework and as such must be agreed by Full Council. Approval of the Plan by Full Council therefore will update the Policy Framework.

Equality and diversity

17. Both the Priorities of the Elected Mayor of Middlesbrough and the proposed Strategic Plan have been subject to Level 1 (screening) equality impact assessments (at Appendix 2). These identified that no negative differential impacts on diverse groups and communities within Middlesbrough is anticipated from the delivery of the Elected Mayor's priorities or other activity set out within the Strategic Plan.

18. The Elected Mayor's priorities relating to crime, education and community engagement will be adopted as the Council's equality objectives for the period to 2023, in line with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

Risk

19. The proposed Strategic Plan sets out a range of activity to address the key risks set out within the Council's Strategic Risk Register, which is reported to the Executive on a quarterly basis.

20. Approval of the Elected Mayor's priorities and the proposed Strategic Plan will positively impact on risk O8-054 in the Strategic Risk Register – *Failure to adhere to Local Code of Corporate Governance and deliver governance improvements outlined in the Annual Governance Statement.*

Actions to be taken to implement the decision

21. On approval, an application will be made to the Plain English Campaign for the Strategic Plan's Crystal Mark to be renewed. After this the finalised document will be made available on the Council's website and circulated to all members and employees.

22. The Strategic Plan is implemented through the Council's Performance and Risk Management Framework, which provides for quarterly progress updates to Executive in line with the requirements of the Scheme of Delegation, and to Overview and Scrutiny Board.

23. A fundamental review of these and other associated frameworks is underway, and a report to Executive in February 2020 will propose changes to arrangements that will enhance transparency and awareness of the Council's plans and maximise their delivery.

Appendices

- 1 Proposed Strategic Plan 2020-23
- 2 Impact Assessments

Background papers

15/03/19 Council Strategic Plan 2019-22

Contact: Paul Stephens, Head of Strategy, Information and Governance

Email: paul_stephens@middlesbrough.gov.uk