

Report of: The Elected Mayor of Middlesbrough; Chief Executive

Submitted to: Executive, 20 December 2019

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

Summary

Proposed decision(s)

That the Executive endorses the Priorities of the Elected Mayor of Middlesbrough and the proposed Strategic Plan for 2020-2023.

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent?
Decision	No	No	No

Contribution to delivery of the 2018-22 Strategic Plan

Business Imperatives	Physical Regeneration	Social Regeneration
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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. Prior to consideration by Full Council on 15 January 2020, this report seeks the Executive's endorsement 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. The Council's Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules provide for the Executive to draw up firm proposals on the Strategic Plan (Change Strategy) for submission to Full Council.

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. Subject to the approval of Full Council, these priorities will supersede the priorities set out in the previous iteration of the mayoral priorities document (*Fairer, Safer, Stronger*).
6. 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.
7. Appendix 1 sets out a revised Strategic Plan for the 2020-2023 period. The plan is organised around 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. 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.
8. 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. A fundamental review of the Council's performance and risk management frameworks is underway, and a report to Executive

in January 2020 will propose changes to arrangements that will be reflected in future iterations of this plan; 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.

9. Following endorsement the plan by the Executive, an application will be made to the Plain English Campaign for the document's Crystal Mark to be renewed. Any changes made as a result of this process or any other considerations will be agreed by the Mayor and the Chief Executive.

What decisions are being asked for?

10. That the Executive endorses the Priorities of the Elected Mayor of Middlesbrough and the proposed Strategic Plan for 2020-2023.

Why is this being recommended?

11. To enable Full Council to consider a robust and comprehensive Plan for the 2020-2023 period at its meeting of 15 January 2020.

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

12. 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

13. 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

14. 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

15. 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

16. 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.

17. 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

18. 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.

Actions to be taken to implement the decision

19. Subject to the Executive's endorsement, the Priorities of the Elected Mayor of Middlesbrough and the proposed Strategic Plan for 2020-2023 will be presented to Full Council on 15 January 2020 for consideration.

20. A report will be presented to the 21 January 2020 meeting of the Executive setting out arrangements for managing the Strategic Plan, which will include revisions to the policies on performance, programme and project, and risk management, a new approach to partnerships governance and proposed improvements to reporting and communicating progress to elected members and local residents.

Appendices

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

Background papers

15/03/19 Council Strategic Plan 2019-22

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