



CABINET

19th DECEMBER 2017

INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE: DAMON LAWRENSON

LEADER OF THE COUNCIL: COUNCILLOR HEATHER SMITH

Subject:	Draft Council Plan 2018-19 to 2019-20
Recommendations:	Cabinet is asked to approve for consultation the Draft Council Plan (Appendix A and Appendix B) for 2018-19 & 2019-20.

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the draft Council Plan to enable a period of consultation to take place in advance of the final Council Plan and associated Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) decisions in February 2018.

1.2 The Council Plan outlines the strategic vision for the Council over the next two years. The Constituent parts of the council will be developing business plans during the next 2 months in response to the Council Plan vision and feedback received from partners and members of the public through the consultation phase.

2. How this decision contributes to the Council plan

The Council's vision is to make Northamptonshire a great place to live and work. This is achieved through increasing the wellbeing of your county's communities and/or safeguarding the county's communities.

This initiative specifically delivers increased wellbeing and/or safeguarding by ensuring that:

- People of all ages are safe, protected from harm and able to live happy, healthy and independent lives in our communities.
- People have the information and support they need to make healthy choices and achieve wellbeing.
- People achieve economic prosperity, in a healthy, low carbon economy which gives access to jobs, training and skills development.
- Communities thrive in a pleasant and resilient environment, with robust transport and communications infrastructure.
- Resources are utilised effectively and efficiently, in coordination with partners and providers.

3. Background

- 3.1 At a time when the whole public sector finds itself under unprecedented pressure to meet more complex demand with ever-reducing budgets, Northamptonshire County Council is taking the opportunity to review and refresh its vision and purpose, in order to place itself in a position where it can not only deliver outcomes for the residents of the county, but also be financially sustainable.
- 3.2 The context in which we operate has changed beyond recognition in the past few years. This is the case for all partners in the county, and up and down councils in England. Northamptonshire finds itself in a particularly difficult position due to demographic growth and funding reductions.
- 3.3 This plan sets our short and medium-term vision, aims and values and our role in not only managing the difficult financial situation the county faces, but also in ensuring that Northamptonshire will grow and thrive.
- 3.4 We acknowledge that the actions required now will set in motion changes which will re-shape local public services and that the next two financial years are crucial to making this a success – hence the shorter focus of this plan.
- 3.5 We want to reconsider our role in the county, our relationship with residents, partners and Central Government. And we want to do so in a way which helps residents take ownership of their lives and communities, and shape services with County Council support. We are not here to deliver or commission all services, but to work with residents and partners to facilitate the achievement of our core purpose: 'Making Northamptonshire a great place to live, learn, work and grow old'.

4. Consultation and Scrutiny

- 4.1 In order to meet the requirements of Part 4 (C) Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, a period of consultation on the content of the Council Plan and Draft Budget will begin on Wednesday 20th December 2017 and conclude on 30th January 2018. The consultation will end no fewer than two weeks before consideration by full Council, hence the timescale agreed above.

5. Equality Screening

5.1 A high level Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for the proposed vision in the Draft Council Plan, and can be accessed here:

<http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/council-and-democracy/equalities/equality-impact-assessments-eqias/Pages/budget-proposals-eqias-2018-19.aspx>

6. Alternative Options Considered

6.1 The Council has a Council Plan in place in order to outline its vision for the county and the Council, and it is good practice that this is shared with residents and partners, for their contribution and comments. Whilst no longer a duty, the need for consultation on the draft strategic vision of the Council is in line with our stated ambition to have a more collaborative relation with residents.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 There are no specific requests for funding, capital or revenue within this paper. However it is important to be reminded of the link between the Council Plan and the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), which outlines the financial implications on the delivery of the Council Plan.

8. Risk and Business Continuity Management

8.1 Risk(s) associated with the proposal

Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Residents and partners disagree with the proposed strategy	Full Council will have the opportunity to consider the feedback of the public consultation before approving the final version	Amber

8.2 Risk(s) associated with not undertaking the proposal

Risk	Risk Rating
The Council does not have a clearly articulated vision and strategy	Amber
Residents are not given the opportunity to shape the strategic direction of the Council	Amber

9. List of Appendices

Appendix A & B – Council Plan 2018-19 to 2019-20

Author:	Name: Luiza Morris-Warren Team: Business Intelligence & Project Management
Contact details:	Tel: 01604 364067 Email: LMorriswarren@northamptonshire.gov.uk
Background Papers:	
Does the report propose a key decision is taken?	YES
If yes, is the decision in the Forward Plan?	YES

Will further decisions be required? If so please outline the timetable here	Final Council Plan approval Cabinet & Full Council in February
Does the report include delegated decisions? If so, please outline the timetable here	N/A
Is this report proposing an amendment to the budget and/or policy framework?	NO
Have the financial implications been cleared by the Strategic Finance Manager (SFM)? Have any capital spend implications been cleared by the Capital Investment Board (CIB)	YES Name of SFM: Mark McLaughlin
Has the report been cleared by the relevant Director?	YES Name of Director: Damon Lawrenson
Has the relevant Cabinet Member been consulted?	YES Cabinet Member: Heather Smith
Has the relevant scrutiny committee been consulted?	NO Scrutiny Committee: Scrutiny have the opportunity to review and consult through the budget scrutiny sessions.
Has the report been cleared by Legal Services?	YES Name of solicitor: Susan Zeiss
Have any communications issues been cleared by Communications and Marketing?	YES Name of officer: Simon Deacon
Have any property Issues been cleared by Property and Asset Management?	N/A No property implications directly rising from this report.
Procurement/ Contractual Implications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you evidenced compliance with the Council's Contract Procedures Rules? • Have you identified where you are seeking Cabinet to approve an exemption from the Contract Procedure Rules and detailed the risks and mitigations? • Have you identified any EU or UK legislative risks associated with the exemption process such as non-compliance with the Public Contract Regulations Act 2015, transparency and open competition? • Have you identified the procurement or contractual risks associated with a contract? 	NO

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the contract/procurement been subjected to the Council's Commercial Board? 	
Are there any community safety implications?	NO
<i>Are there any environmental implications:</i>	NO
Are there any Health and Safety Implications:	NO
Are there any Human Resources Implications:	NO
Are there any human rights implications:	NO
Constituency Interest:	Countywide