



Committee and date

Cabinet 16 November 2011
12.30 pm

Council 24 November 2011

Item

12

Public

Draft Shropshire Council Plan 2011 - 2013

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1. Summary

This report seeks Member's approval of the new Council Plan 2011 – 2013 (**Appendix 1 Link to draft Council Plan** <http://shropshire.gov.uk/councilplan>).

The aim of the Council Plan 2011 - 2013 is to set out clearly in one place the role and purpose of Shropshire Council and how we will deliver our contribution, over the next three years, to the vision and priorities of Shropshire's longer term Community Strategy, to ensure improved outcomes for local people. It provides information in a variety of interactive ways, to enable people to find out how our relationship with our citizens, with other organisations and with local communities will be transformed in the future.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:-

- 2.1 Cabinet approve the draft Shropshire Council Plan 2011-2013, with or without amendment; and
- 2.2 the final version of the Council Plan be approved by full Council at their meeting on 24 November, and subsequently be reviewed as part of the Council's corporate planning cycle.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1 There is a risk that, if Shropshire Council does not review its overall strategic plan, our current planning documentation will not continue to reflect the priorities for of local people for improving quality of life for local people Shropshire. The Council Plan is the key link between the strategic objectives established in Shropshire's Community Strategy, the Council's Transformation Programme and Medium Term Financial Plan, and the specific objectives within Group Managers' service plans.

- 3.2 It is underpinned by feedback from work conducted through Human Resources on the values and behaviours needed from our staff to ensure that we do things in a consistent way across the organisation, and will support us in meeting the aims of Government policy and of legislation such as the Equality Act 2010.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The Council Plan does not have any financial implications in itself, but serves as the main framework for driving the Council's strategic planning process and provides the key reference document for the development of the investment decisions arising from our Annual Service Delivery Plans and our budget setting process.

5. Background

- 5.1 This Council Plan succeeds the Shropshire Council Transitional Corporate Plan 2010-2013, adopted by Council in February 2010. It draws on previous key policy papers, such as the agreed Medium Term Financial Plan 2010 - 2014, "Creating a better future together" – Shropshire's programme of transformation, the Public Services Reform White paper report, and the Localism Bill report along with various key presentations which describe our new ways of working as an organisation.

6. Presentation and draft content

- 6.1 The primary channel for communicating the new Council Plan is the web based version, which aligns with our new way of working. This will enable us to reach new and diverse audiences, providing a new and interactive platform for people to receive more up to date information about what we are doing. It gives people faster and easier ways to get in touch, allowing them to give us feedback in more quickly about the services they receive, for example through our Facebook pages and through twitter.
- 6.2 We will up date the Plan as new and innovative ways are introduced to improve the accessibility and effectiveness of locally-delivered services.
- 6.3 People will be able to access the Council Plan on line, in our libraries and customer information points. In line with our new way of working, hard copies will be made available only on request.

The plan is laid out in 4 sections:

- 6.4 Part 1 – Our future role – this section describes our rapidly changing role over the next few years, and provides a clear statement of how we intend to work in the future.

6.5 Part 2 - Our priorities

Our priorities reflect our changing role and transformed way of working. They set out where we will focus our resources to deliver the things that are most important for the people of Shropshire. This section describes how local councillors will need to operate as community leaders, and shows how staff and local people will contribute to delivery of our priorities.

6.6 Part 3 - Our values - The values reflect work undertaken with a representative group of staff to develop an agreed set of behaviours. These will ensure that things are done in a consistent way across the organisation, and will form part of a new Performance Competency Framework for all staff from 2013.

6.7 Part 4 - How we will check our progress – Performance measures developed in conjunction with Group Managers have been produced to form a robust performance framework under each of the nine intended outcomes for Shropshire. The framework identifies a number of key indicators to allow closer monitoring against the delivery of our agreed priorities. Further detail on the performance framework is covered elsewhere on this agenda.

7. Timetable

7.1 The final version of the Council Plan 2011 – 13 will be reported to Council for approval on 24 November 2011.

8. Conclusion

8.1 The draft Shropshire Council Plan 2011 - 2013 is designed to continue to allow us to be flexible in responding to rapid change and emerging Government policy, but also provides a clear statement of intent for the way we will work in the future, with our partners and local communities.

The Council Plan, as the main strategic document for the organisation, will be the basis for all future business planning across the organisation. Guidance is being prepared to support managers in their business planning activities, and this will help to ensure that we deliver our priorities and achieve visibly better outcomes for local people.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Shropshire Partnership's Community Strategy 2010-2020

Creating a better future together – Shropshire's programme of transformation

Shropshire Council's Medium Term Financial Plan 2010 – 2014

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Keith Barrow, Leader of Shropshire Council

Local Member

All

Appendices

Draft Council Plan 2011 – 2013 *Link*

<http://shropshire.gov.uk/news/2011/11/council-plan/>