

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

<b>MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b> <b>The Leader Cllr Tim Warren</b>	
<b>MEETING/ DECISION DATE:</b>	<b>08 July 2015</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:</b> <b>E2776</b>
<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Cabinet Aims and Priorities</b>	
<b>WARD:</b>	<b>All</b>	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM/</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b> <b>Please list all the appendices here, clearly indicating any which are exempt and the reasons for exemption</b>		

### **1 THE ISSUE**

- 1.1 The paper sets out the proposed priorities of the new administration; these will be presented at the meeting by the Leader of the Council and cabinet members.

### **2 RECOMMENDATION**

#### **THE CABINET:**

- 2.1 Agrees the aims and priorities set out in section 5 of the report and to;
- 2.2 Further develop these into the Council's Corporate Strategy for 2015 - 2020 to be brought to Cabinet in September.

### **3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

- 3.1 This report does not set out the specific resource implications of the proposals. These will be worked up and reported as the administration develops its Corporate and Budget Strategy over the coming months.

### **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL**

- 4.1 The priorities are set out to inform and lead the subsequent work and direction of the Council over the term of the administration.

## **5 THE REPORT**

5.1 The Cabinet has set out three core aims for the new administration, as well as six key priorities.

5.2 The Cabinet's three core aims are to ensure that Bath and North East Somerset is a Council which:

- is efficient and well-run;
- invests in the future of the area; and
- puts the interests of residents first.

5.3 In addition to these core aims, the Cabinet has also established six more detailed priorities which are to be the main areas of focus for the administration. The following sets out these priorities with some of the actions the Cabinet is proposing to initiate continue or support.

### **5.4 Tackle waste and increase efficiency.**

- Establishing a long-term financial plan to ensure the Council plans proactively for the challenges in the years ahead.
- Prioritising the protection of essential frontline services, particularly for those most in need by maximising efficiency savings within the Council.
- Looking at how we can save money and generate new income and supporting communities to do more for themselves
- Seeking new and innovative ways of delivering services using commercial skills and looking at opportunities to generate income through Council resources and sound investment.
- Finding ways to save money by sharing services with other organisations
- Ensuring projects are managed effectively and within budget.

### **5.5 Deliver new homes and jobs**

- New jobs and more affordable homes are essential to growth and prosperity with targets of 11,500 new jobs and 13,000 new homes including over 3000 affordable homes.
- Support and encourage an entrepreneurial culture building on strengths in ICT, Creative and digital, low carbon and visitor economy.
- Deliver new office space, target of 50,000 square metres of modern business floor space by 2029
- Work with the Local enterprise Partnership, money from the LEP helping deliver the new business quarter in Bath.
- Support top end office space in Keynsham and the Somer Valley helping them achieve their economic potential and create sustainable jobs.
- Support our rural economy, with investment in faster, more reliable superfast broadband in our rural areas.

## **5.6 Improve local transport**

- Transport improvements a key priority. Committed to making it easier for residents, businesses and visitors to get around the area. This will range from community transport and dial a ride services to the Metro West rail project.
- Consulting on the East of Bath Park and Ride
- Establishing long-term transport strategies for all parts of the B&NES area.
- Consider existing and future transport issues and projects through the independent review.

## **5.7 Invest in our area's young people**

- Continue to support schools in the area to improve and promote educational excellence. Investing at least £6.6m to make sure we have the right number of school places
- To enable children to grow up to be good citizens, confident to be themselves and respectful and tolerant of differences, so continue to champion equality and diversity.
- To provide early support to vulnerable children so that, wherever possible, they don't need to go into care. To provide timely help for the children and families that most in need in our communities.
- To prioritise the Connecting Families service - as a direct result of this children are back in school, youth crime is down and parents are off benefits and in work.
- Continue to support adoption services, including working with our neighbouring authorities to create a single Adoption Agency.

## **5.8 Support cleaner, greener and healthier local communities**

- The people of Bath and North East Somerset are very healthy, by almost any national comparison; nevertheless, like the rest of the UK, we face challenges.
- To support the health and wellbeing of local residents by working closely with NHS colleagues and others to deliver healthier communities.
- To step up support for people's mental health at all ages, including ongoing support for the Wellbeing College which supports people to manage their own health and wellbeing.
- Focus on prevention, helping people to help themselves, through education and by making our area a place where it is easier to walk, cycle, take part in all types of active leisure.
- To work to reconnect the river to the city of Bath, and continue working with our partners to improve river safety.
- As part of our new leisure services contract, there will be £17m investment in our leisure centres, to help get more people, more active, more often.
- Work with residents to protect and improve our natural and built environment, with cleaner streets and investment in our public realm.
- Ensuring the Council continues to take action to address the causes and effects of climate change.

## **5.9 Promote greater choice and independence for older people**

- Invest in services for older people to help them remain independent for longer. To achieve this we will ensure joined-up health and social care services, working closely with our partners in the NHS.

- Build on our 5-Year Better Care Fund Plan — which has been identified nationally as an example of best practice.
- Focus is on preventative services that help people stay well for longer, and keep them out of hospital or a care home
- Support people discharged from hospital. The intensive home from hospital support service delivered in partnership with Age UK B&NES and Care & Repair Home Improvement Agency is a good example of this.
- Continue to support dementia services, including the award-winning Independent Living Service for people with dementia, and their carers, living in rural areas.
- Deliver on our new, statutory responsibilities under the Care Act 2014, providing the right support and advice to people who need it.

## 6 RATIONALE

6.1 The report captures the cabinet’s priorities to inform and lead the development of the Councils future plans and its engagement with its stakeholders (its residents, staff and partners). In order to consider its future budget plans the Council will need to agree a new Corporate Strategy for the period up to 2020

## 7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 None

## 8 CONSULTATION

8.1 The Chief Executive, Section 151 and Monitoring Officers been consulted and agreed these papers for publication

## 9 RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

<b>Contact person</b>	<i>David Trethewey, Divisional Director Strategy and Performance</i>
<b>Background papers</b>	<i>List here any background papers not included with this report, and where/how they are available for inspection.</i>
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	