
To: Leadership Board

On: 8th June 2016

Report by: Chief Executive

Heading: Council Plan progress report 2016/17

1. Summary

- 1.1 In December 2015, full Council approved a refreshed Council Plan which set out the key priorities for the organisation for the period to March 2017. The council plan sets out for residents, elected members, employees and our partners what the Council will work to achieve and how this will be taken forward. It is the Council's 'plan for action' and all of other plans, including the annual service plans produced by each service in the council, derive from it.
- 1.2 The Council's vision is linked to that for Renfrewshire overall through the Renfrewshire Community Plan: -
- Renfrewshire is a 'fair, inclusive place where all our people, businesses and communities thrive'.
- 1.3 The plan sets out 10 key priority areas which the Council will progress to invest in a **better future** for Renfrewshire and create a **better council** that will work with customers and partners to make it happen.
- 1.4 This progress report is structured around the three themes: Better Future: Place, Better Future: People and Better Council. Performance and the progress against the specific actions and measures contained in the Council Plan is provided below.
- 1.5 Real progress is being made by the Council in partnership with other organisations at a local and national level to drive an ambitious programme

of change and regeneration for Renfrewshire. This programme of change and improvement is being progressed within the context of an increasingly challenging financial environment with a range of pressures being managed by Services in parallel. Key priorities set out in the Council Plan include the focus on tackling poverty and mitigating the impact of welfare reform, driving economic and cultural regeneration, providing care and support to those most vulnerable, and modernising the way in which the Council does business, including the way in which services engage with service users, citizens and businesses.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that members are requested to note:
- i. Note the progress that has been made to date by services in terms of delivering the Council Plan; and
 - ii. Agree that a further progress update should be prepared and submitted to the Board in December 2016.
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3. Background

- 3.1 The Council Plan was approved by Council on 17th December 2015, it sets out the overarching strategic vision and objectives of the Council.

- 3.2 The Council Plan's ten priorities are structured around three themes:

Better Future: Place

Priority 1: Driving Physical and Economic Regeneration

Priority 2: Building on our Culture and Heritage

Priority 3: Protecting the Public

Priority 4: Creating a Sustainable Renfrewshire

Better Future: People

Priority 5: Reducing the Level and Impact of Poverty

Priority 6: Raising Attainment and Closing the Attainment Gap

Priority 7: Supporting and Sustaining People into Employment

Priority 8: Improving Care, Health and Wellbeing

Better Council

Priority 9: Supporting our Employees

Priority 10: Continuing to be a Well Run Council

- 3.3 The progress against these priorities is actively monitored by services, with the underpinning actions and success measurers part of the service improvement planning process. Progress and performance is monitored quarterly by the Corporate Management Team and progress is reported to the Leadership Board every 6 months.

4. Better Future: Place

4.1 The Council Plan articulates ambition for Renfrewshire to be a location where people and families choose to live because of the great quality of life, the work opportunities available, that its safe, and visit because of the fantastic events and cultural sights the area has to offer. This theme is underpinned by four priorities and a number of high profile work programmes, including Paisley UK City of Culture 2021, City Deal and the Street Stuff programme.

4.2 A note of the progress and the key achievements since December 2015 has been provided below:

Priority 1 Driving Physical and Economic Regeneration:

- Glasgow City Region City Deal investment programme is being actively progressed with the strategic business cases for the Renfrew Riverside & Clyde Waterfront Project, the Glasgow Airport Investment Area Project and the Airport Access Project approved by the Council and the City Region Cabinet in December 2015.
- Hillington Park Simplified Planning Zone (SPZ) Scheme has been operational for more than a year and has helped to support development proposals which will deliver over £17 million of investment in the Park.
- Paisley Town Centre Heritage Asset Strategy picked up two titles at the Placemaking Awards in London in 2015.

Priority 2 Building on our Culture and Heritage:

- In late 2015 the Council launched its bid for UK City of Culture 2021 with work in the early part of this year focusing on raising public and stakeholder support for the bid.
- Aligned to the City of Culture Bid, a new £500,000 Culture, Heritage and Events fund was approved, with a positive response for the first funding round in March 2016.
- The £3.3million heritage led regeneration scheme has delivered the restoration of 4 historic buildings, 9 traditional shopfronts and public realm improvements in Causeyside St/Johnston Street.
- A number of high profile and successful events have been held across Renfrewshire, such as the Monte Carlo Classic car rally, British Pipe band championship.
- InCube, the Council's retail incubator to support the growth and development of creative retail businesses was launched in 2015 and has supported 13 businesses so far.

Priority 3: Protecting the Public:

- We received a positive report from inspectors on our Children's Services across the Renfrewshire partnership.
- An expanded Street Stuff diversionary programme is now being delivered with the new breakfast club model, supported by Tackling Poverty funding.
- Over 2015/16 there were more than 37,000 attendances at Street Stuff activities across Renfrewshire.

- Phase 1 of the Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership Hub and integrated CCTV control room is now fully operational.
- With partners, we delivered a new public awareness campaign in relation to child protection.
- Our child protection training was updated to include internet safety and child sexual exploitation.

Priority 4: Creating a Sustainable Renfrewshire:

- We have significantly progressed the delivery of the Clyde Valley shared services work stream of a residual waste treatment and disposal solution.
- The North Renfrew Flood Prevention Scheme became operational.
- We increased the number of electric cars in the Council's fleet to 22 and 5.5% of the vehicle fleet uses alternative fuel up from 1% in 2012.

5. Better Future: People

5.1 Improving the lives of the people of Renfrewshire is the next theme in the Council Plan 2016/17. This theme sets out four priorities for the Council relating to tackling poverty, for children to have the best start in life, closing the gap in educational attainment between children from higher income families and those from lower income families and vulnerable background, developing employment opportunities and ensure vulnerable children, families and adults can access support when it is required.

5.2 A note of the progress and the key achievements since December 2015 has been provided below:

Priority 5 Reducing the Level and Impact of Poverty:

- New Breakfast clubs were launched in early 2016 in four schools: St Catherine's, Gallowhill Primary, St David's and Cochrane Castle. Since the launch we have provided over 5,661 healthy breakfasts over 135 sessions, and take-up of the clubs across all schools are high.
- Over 60 local employers attended an event hosted by Invest in Renfrewshire and the Chamber of Commerce to hear about Living Wage Accreditation, and the number has now risen to 23 accredited Living Wage organisations in Renfrewshire.
- A further £180,000 from the programmes Credit Union Development Fund to support credit unions in Renfrewshire. Over 600 people have signed up for memberships in Renfrewshire's Credit Unions in the last 6 months, and credit unions have issued 108 'FastCash' loans as an alternative to using payday lenders.
- A new Advice Partnership Renfrewshire was formed, which brings together key advice-giving agencies in Renfrewshire in order to maintain a strategic view of advice services.

Priority 6 Raising Attainment and Closing the Attainment Gap:

- Training for head teachers and class teachers has been developed in partnership with the University of Strathclyde to support literacy development, and the delivery of the programme is well advanced.
- The Pizza Reading Family Learning Groups was introduced to seven primary schools. These groups work in partnership with schools to promote families of Primary 1 children to read together.
- Plans are being developed to roll-out the use of How Good Is Our School (HGIOS) (4) from August 2016 and implement the National Improvement Framework.

Priority 7 Supporting and Sustaining People into Employment:

- Invest in Renfrewshire continue to work with partners to address youth unemployment which is now below the Scottish average for the first time at 1.9%, falling from 10.9% in June 2012 when the programme started.
- 170 paid employment opportunities have been offered through the Council through traineeships and graduate internship amongst others.

Priority 8 Improving Care, Health and Wellbeing:

- The Integrated Joint Board was formally established and the Council delegated adult social care services and budgets to the partnership on 1 April 2016.
- We established Families First teams into Foxbar, Gallowhill and Johnstone.
- We supported young people in our schools to use a peer education approach to promote health and wellbeing.
- We delivered Ten Lessons for Life and Steps to Excellence programmes to adult learners in Renfrewshire

6. Better Council

6.1 For the final theme, Better Council, the plan sets out how the Council will continue to support employees and to be a well run Council. By ensuring the organisation has the right appraisal system, training programmes, an effective communication approach and providing employees with opportunities to suggest new ideas and ways of working; the Council will have a supported, encouraged and motivated workforce.

6.2 A note of the progress and the key achievements since December 2015 has been provided below:

Priority 9 Supporting our Employees:

- Developed an Organisational Development Strategy which was approved by the Leadership Board in December 2015. The strategy focuses on 3 immediate priority areas to support the development of the workforce and deliver on key outcomes.

- An internal communications strategy was approved by the corporate management team in January and will be actively implemented in 2016/17.
- Options are being considered to develop a corporate staff recognition programme that celebrates success and recognises great individual and team contributions to the delivery of the Council, Community and Service Plans.

Priority 10 Continuing to be a Well Run Council:

- We launched a customer Portal in March 2016, offering local people the opportunity to securely view council tax information and carry out some transactions online.
- We delivered a range of community planning events on issues such as regeneration and the Paisley 2021 bid.

7. Next reporting stage

- 7.1 The next progress report to the Leadership Board in relation to the Council Plan will be submitted to Board in December 2016.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** - *none*
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – A Better Council, Priority 9 of the Council Plan sets out how we will support Council employees
3. **Community Planning** – - *none*
4. **Legal** - *none*.
5. **Property/Assets** - *none*
6. **Information Technology** - *none*
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - *none*
 - (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because for example it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
8. **Health & Safety** - *none*
9. **Procurement** – *none*
10. **Risk** – A number of the projects or actions set out in the Council Plan also feature within the Corporate and Services risk registers.
11. **Privacy Impact** - *none*

List of Background Papers

- (a) Background Paper 1 – Council Plan Refresh 2016/17

The foregoing background papers will be retained within Chief Executive's Service for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is *Nicola Irvine-Brown, Policy Lead*, Nicola.irvine@renfrewshire.gov.uk, 0141 618 7414

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