

<b>Committee/Meeting:</b> Cabinet	<b>Date:</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2012	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted	<b>Report No:</b> CAB115/112
<b>Report of:</b> Isabella Freeman, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal)  <b>Originating officer:</b> Kevin Kewin, Strategy, Policy and Performance Service Manager, CE's.		<b>Title:</b> Strategic Plan 2012/13  <b>Wards Affected:</b> All	

<b>Lead Members</b>	Deputy Mayor, Cllr Ohid Ahmed and Cabinet Member for Resources, Cllr Alibor Choudhury
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	All
<b>Strategic Priority</b>	All

## 1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report presents the draft Strategic Plan 2012/13 (appendices 1 and 2). The Strategic Plan incorporates the Single Equality Framework (SEF) which sets out the Council's equality priorities.

## 2. **DECISIONS REQUIRED**

The Mayor in Cabinet is recommended to:-

- 2.1 Approve the Strategic Plan (appendices 1 and 2).
- 2.2 Authorise the Chief Executive to make any appropriate and necessary amendments prior to publication.

## 3. **REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 3.1 The Strategic Plan outlines the Council's key priorities for the year alongside the more detailed actions that will support their delivery. The Plan also sets out the strategic performance measures with which we track our progress.
- 3.2 The Strategic Plan incorporates the Council's Single Equality Framework (SEF). The SEF sets out the Council's framework for tackling inequality and promoting cohesion. We have integrated the equality objectives of the Framework into the Strategic Plan, ensuring that a focus on tackling inequality informs the strategic direction of the Council. It also enables us to demonstrate that we are meeting the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty to prepare and publish objectives which demonstrate how the organisation will meet the aims of the Duty.

#### **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 Cabinet may choose not to agree a Strategic Plan. This course of action is not recommended as there would be a significant planning gap: the Strategic Plan is a key element of the Council's business planning arrangements. In addition, the Council's priorities for the year would not be articulated and the key supporting activities and performance measures would not be agreed for monitoring. If the Strategic Plan was not agreed a Single Equality Framework would still need to be adopted to meet legal requirements.
- 4.2 Cabinet may choose to amend the Strategic Plan prior to approval. If Cabinet wished to amend the Plan, regard would need to be given to the Council's medium term financial plan, with which the current Strategic Plan is aligned, as well as to the legal implications relating to any changes.

#### **5. BODY OF REPORT**

- 5.1 The Strategic Plan has two elements. The Outline Plan sets out the local context, how we address inequality in the Plan and a short narrative for each theme alongside the strategic activities and measures. The Action Plan provides more detail on how we will deliver our priorities, including the detailed milestones that support our strategic activities.
- 5.2 The Plan has been informed by the Mayor's Pledges and is aligned with the budget. The Strategic Plan incorporates the Council's Single Equality Framework (SEF) which sets out the Council framework for tackling inequality and promoting cohesion. Whilst the overarching vision and priorities of the Council remain largely unchanged, the Strategic Plan 12/13 reflects the current challenges facing the Council and how we will address them. As such a number of areas are more significant in this year's plan, including welfare reform, the Olympics, localisation and managing health reforms.

#### **6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

- 6.1 The Strategic Plan is a core planning document for the Council, which sets out key priorities, activities, milestones and performance measures for 2012/13. The Plan provides a framework for allocating financial resources, in line with the strategic priorities, as part of the medium term financial planning process. This report has no other financial implications.

#### **7. CONCURRENT REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL SERVICES)**

- 7.1 The Strategic Plan is closely aligned with the Community Plan, which sets out the Council's sustainable community strategy within the meaning of section 4 of the Local Government Act 2000. The Strategic Plan specifies how the Council will prioritise delivery of its functions and thus ranges across the Council's statutory powers and duties. The proposed actions are

capable of being carried out lawfully and it will be for officers to ensure that this is the case.

7.2 Section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999 requires best value authorities, including the Council, to “make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness”. The development of the actions in the Strategic Plan, together with their delivery and subsequent monitoring will contribute to the way in which the best value duty can be fulfilled. Monitoring reports to members and actions arising from those reports will help to demonstrate that the Council has undertaken activity to satisfy the statutory duty.

7.3 The Equality Act 2010 requires the Council in the exercise of its functions to have due regard to the need to avoid discrimination and other unlawful conduct under the Act, the need to promote equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. The report proposes that the Council's Single Equality Framework be incorporated into the Strategic Plan and this is a relevant consideration. It is also relevant to consider that the Community Plan was the subject of equality analysis during its preparation. Further equality analysis will likely be required in the delivery of actions in the Strategic Plan to ensure the Council complies with its equality duty.

## **8. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS**

8.1 The Strategic Plan 2012/13 incorporates the Council's Single Equality Framework (SEF). The SEF sets out the Council framework for tackling inequality and promoting cohesion. This approach enables us to demonstrate that we are meeting the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) to prepare and publish objectives which demonstrate how the organisation will meet the aims of the Duty. In many ways our cross cutting principle of One Tower Hamlets prefigures the aspiration of the PSED.

## **9. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT**

9.1 The Strategic Plan includes a focus on action for a greener environment. This includes specific priorities, with supporting actions, for protecting our environment, improving parks and open spaces and supporting local sustainable transport.

## **10. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 The Strategic Plan provides the strategic framework for other strategies and plans. Risks relating to the achievement of its objectives are therefore monitored through the Council's corporate risk register and directorate risk registers. Risks are assessed for likelihood and impact, and have responsible owners and programmes of mitigating actions.

**11. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 The Strategic Plan has a strong focus on crime and disorder. The key priorities, activities, milestones and measures are set out within the Safe and Cohesive theme.

**12. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT**

12.1 The Strategic Plan highlights the current financial context which includes significantly reduced funding for the Council. The Plan sets out a range of activities to support better value for money. Progress against the performance measures in the Strategic Plan is reported to Overview and Scrutiny and Cabinet, alongside the Council's budget monitoring, on a quarterly basis.

**13. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Strategic Plan Outline Plan  
Appendix 2: Strategic Plan Action Plan

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**Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)  
List of "Background Papers" used in the preparation of this report**

Brief description of "background papers"	Name and telephone number of holder and address where open to inspection.
None	Kevin Kewin ext: 4075