
Subject: STATE OF THE DISTRICT

Meeting and Date: Cabinet – 8 July 2013

Council – 24 July 2013

Report of: Councillor Paul Watkins, Leader of the Council

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Paul Watkins, Leader of the Council

Decision Type: Non-Key Decision

Classification: Unrestricted

Purpose of the report: To note the annual State of the District and any movement from previous years reports.

Recommendation: Recommend Council note the report and actions being taken through the Corporate Plan 2012 – 2016. Recommend moving to report to Council in September 2014 to allow for an update of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation to be included in the report.

1. Summary

The State of the District report was first introduced to Council in May 2010 with the revised Interim Corporate Plan; when it was requested the report be produced annually.

This report is the annual backward look at the state of the district, highlighting key information under the headings of Population, Economy, Business and Employment, Funding and Investment, Transport and Infrastructure, Education and Skills, Housing, Health and Wellbeing, Deprivation and Poverty, Community Safety and Quality of Life.

Much of the information collected is gathered nationally every three years, and therefore some of the information, such as the deprivation figures, is repeated from the previous year. Any updated information at the time of drafting the report has been included. New health profiles by district will be available around September 2013 and therefore that particular information is subject to an update. The analysis shows a similar position to previous years as was forecast, this picture locally and nationally may continue as the effects of the economic downturn continue to be felt. Although in Dover district development on the ground is still progressing and external funding being sought and secured the impact of these developments has always expected to be a longer-term progression.

This report proposes Cabinet and Council consider the 2014 annual State of the District report in September 2014. A huge raft of information is published during May and June for the previous year (sometimes later), a September reporting schedule will allow the majority of the information collated annually to be reported.

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The Corporate Plan was refreshed in and approved by Council in March 2012 and sets the direction for the Council, working in partnership, for the period 2012 – 2016.
- 2.2 The key information in the report is linked to the aims and ambitions in the Corporate Plan through the Executive Summary. This is to highlight the ongoing actions being taken (the Corporate Plan is to 2016) and the ambitions of the Council and partners to address the key challenges of the report. This report also enables the setting of future direction along with other relevant information and knowledge.
- 2.3 It should be noted the report is a backward look over the last year and not all available information is collated and updated annually, therefore some information is not readily available at this time.

3. Identification of Options

- 3.1 Continue with an annual State of the District report in its current format. Not all information is collated annually and therefore some information is repeated.
- 3.2 Discontinue the State of the District report and only update on an ad hoc basis as the information becomes available.

4. Evaluation of Options

- 4.1 The State of the District is a useful and valuable resource identifying key factors of growth, challenges and development within the district, it is a useful tool when considering forward actions and ambitions and when applying for external funding. The preferred option is therefore to continue with the report.

5. Resource Implications

- 5.1 Actions to address key factors within the State of the District are contained within the Corporate Plan. The Corporate Plan has been set with the Medium Term Financial Plan.

6. Corporate Implications

- 6.1 Comment from the Section 151 Officer: Finance has been consulted on this report and has no further comments to add. (HL)
- 6.2 Comment from the Solicitor to the Council: The Solicitor to the Council has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no further comments to make.
- 6.3 Comment from the Equalities Officer: The Equality Officer has been consulted during the development of this report and has no further comments to make other than to remind members that in discharging their responsibilities they are required to comply with the public sector equality duty as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15>

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 – State of the District 2013.

8. **Background Papers**

The State of the District 2012.

Contact Officer: Michelle Farrow, Head of Leadership Support and Caroline Hargreaves, Leadership Support Officer.