

## Council Plan Consultation

We publish our Council Plan every four years to set the strategic direction for our work, and update the plan annually.

In July 2017 we began a six week period of consultation on our draft Council Plan. The consultation was publicised on the website, through social media and in Council publications. It was also sent to a range of partner agencies including district and borough councils, police, fire, health, the voluntary and community sector and agencies representing the private sector etc.

52 responses to the consultation were received during this time. Of these:

- 12 were from partner agencies
- 27 were from residents
- 13 were from employees

Many responses were very detailed covering a number of the priorities contained within the Plan. All comments have been passed onto service departments, where appropriate, to inform the development of service plans. Comments will also be used to feed into the budget consultation process for the next financial year.

A number of comments have resulted in changes to the Plan as follows:

- **Mental health** - Five responses, primarily from current and former employees, felt there was insufficient reference to services provided for people with mental health issues.

Greater emphasis on the support provided to people with mental issues has now been made within the "Encouraging health lifestyles" priority of the plan and a specific commitment to cover this area of work has now been included. Mental health is covered within the Adult Care Service Plan and the comments have been passed to the department to inform future planning.

- **Lack of detail** - Five responses did not feel that there was a sufficient level of detail in the Plan requesting, for instance, further action plans, funding proposals, SMART targets and performance indicators.

The Council Plan is an overarching document setting out overall strategic direction and key priorities. As such it would be very difficult to include the level of detail requested, for the wide range of flagship projects, priorities and actions that have been identified. An additional section called "Implementing the Plan" has now been included within the Plan and this makes references to departmental services plans as the key tool for outlining how key priorities and actions will be delivered moving forward.

- **Omission of key partners** - The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner did not feel that they were sufficiently represented in the Plan. The OPCC also wanted more reference made to key plans and strategies such as the Police and Crime Plan and a Mental Health Concordat and felt that the work by the Council and partners to support victims was not sufficiently referenced.

Reference to the OPCC has now been included in the Council Plan alongside a list of other partners working to protect local people. The Council Plan does not explicitly reference other plans and strategies because of the sheer number of these. The absence of services to support victims was considered to be a gap and this work is now referenced within the Plan.

- **Education** - Two respondents felt that the Plan did not sufficiently cover the importance of education.

The Council's influence of education has declined significantly in recent years and as such specific priorities were not felt to be appropriate. However, education is specifically mentioned in the outcomes section of the Plan to address the responses received, and a reference to the Council championing education has now been included within the "Giving children and young people the best start".

- **Health and wellbeing** - Two respondents did not feel that there was enough focus on the term health and wellbeing.

References to health and wellbeing and the wider work of the Council in this regard have now been included within the "Encouraging healthy lifestyles" priority of the Plan.

The majority of the comments received sought further clarification about the implementation of activities or the operational detail of specific priorities, flagship projects or commitments which were not included in the Plan itself, for example:

- Request for further information about the Council's policies on fracking
- More detail on targets to reduce air pollution
- Comments about the portfolio of land that the Derbyshire Development Company will have at its disposal moving forward
- Request for more detail on the administration of the sports action, community action and youth action grants.

A number of comments also provided detail on how the organisation responding to the consultation met, or contributed, to the priorities or was working towards the same aims and objectives as the Council, for example the Chesterfield Canal Partnership and South Derbyshire CVS.

In both of the examples above, comments have been referred onto the relevant service departments for them to consider in their future plans.

Amendments were made to the draft Council Plan as a result of the comments received. The final Plan was approved at a meeting of the Full Council on 13 September 2017.