

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

Date: 16 May 2013

ITEM 15

Title: Review of Policy Framework

Report from Directorate: Chief Executive's Office

Report Author: Vivienne Geary, Head of Law and Governance (Tel: 643 5339)

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Wards affected: All Wards

PART 1

1.1 Purpose:

The Annual Council meeting is required by the Constitution to determine the content of the Policy Framework for the coming year in respect of those plans and strategies that the Council has discretion to adopt.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

The Council is requested to defer consideration of the Policy Framework to enable a full review of the Framework to be undertaken and reported to a future Council meeting.

1.3 Forward plan:

This report was listed on the Forward Plan that was first published on 3 April 2013.

1.4 Council plan and policy framework:

This report relates directly to the Council's Policy Framework.

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Details

Article 4 of the Council's Constitution sets out the Council's approved Policy Framework.

The Regulations that were issued under the Local Government Act 2000 specified a number of Plans that require final approval by the full Council and, as a result, have been required to be included in the Policy Framework.

The Regulations also identified a number of "discretionary" plans. The Council has discretion over whether or not to include these in the Policy Framework and any such plans that are included consequently require final approval by the full Council.

The Elected Mayor has indicated that she wishes to defer consideration of the Policy Framework to enable a full review of the Framework to be undertaken and reported to a future Council meeting.

1.6 Decision options:

The Council may continue with the current arrangements with regard to the Policy Framework pending a full review being carried out.

There are no other options presented.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

To ensure a full review of the Policy Framework is undertaken and that the Council complies with the requirements of Article 4 of the Constitution.

1.8 Appendices:

None.

1.9 Contact officers:

David Brown – Law and Governance (Tel. 6435358)
Alison Campbell – Finance and Resources (Tel. 6437038)

1.10 Background information:

The following background papers and research reports have been used in the compilation of this report and are available for inspection at the offices of the author.

The Council's Constitution

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Any financial implications associated with the approval of each Plan and Policy will be included in the relevant report to Council.

2.2 Legal

The composition of the Policy Framework is required to be reviewed annually in accordance with paragraph 2 of Part 4.7 of the Budget and Policy Framework Rules of Procedure contained in the Constitution and relevant legislation.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

The Elected Mayor has been consulted on the requirement to review the Policy Framework. The Member approval process, at the Annual Council meeting, provides the key element to the consultation process.

2.4 Human rights

The proposals within this report do not themselves have direct implications in respect of the Human Rights Act 1998.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no direct equalities or diversity implications arising from this report.

2.6 Risk management

As the recommendations are procedural and a recognised part of the business of the Annual Council meeting, no further risk assessment has been undertaken.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no direct environment and sustainability implications arising from this report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Strategic Manager, Policy, Partnerships, Performance and Communications.