



<b>Subject:</b>	Draft Council Improvement Objectives 2019-20
<b>Date:</b>	22 February 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Tully, Director of City & Organisational Strategy
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Christine Robinson, Strategic Policy and Partnership Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To present the draft corporate improvement objectives for 2019 - 2020 and to seek Committee approval to issue these for public consultation in line with our statutory obligations.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	Members are asked to consider the draft improvement objectives for 2019-20, and subject to any agreed refinements, to authorise the public consultation required as part of the council's improvement duty. The proposed improvement objectives for 2019-20 are as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>We will support people into employment</b> (Working and Learning)</li><li><b>We will support investment and business growth in the city</b> (Growing the Economy)</li><li><b>We will support the regeneration of the city centre and encourage investment</b> (City Development)</li></ol>

2.2	<p>4. <b>We will increase levels of household recycling and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill</b> (City Development)</p> <p>5. <b>We will support people to lead healthier more active lives by improving the quality of our parks and open spaces and increasing participation in physical activity and sport programmes</b> (Living Here)</p> <p>6. <b>We will support service improvement and increase customer satisfaction with council</b></p> <p>Subject to feedback from the public consultation, detailed actions, performance targets and alignment to inclusive growth will be developed.</p>
3.0	<p><b>Key Issues</b></p>
3.1	<p><b>Development our Improvement Objectives</b></p> <p>In developing the draft improvement objectives for 2019-20, we have taken account of previous public and stakeholder consultation and relevant performance data and service intelligence to assess ongoing need and priorities. As a result, we have retained a number of last year's improvement objectives reflecting the ongoing importance of these whilst also adding some new additional objectives.</p>
3.2	<p>Our improvement objectives remain aligned to the Belfast Agenda; however, this year as a result of feedback from the local government auditor, we have refocused them so that they better articulate the specific improvement actions and outcomes that council itself will deliver for the period 2019 - 20. In addition, we have incorporated a new organisational improvement objective aligned to improving our services and customer satisfaction as outlined within our Corporate Plan. We have also taken on board feedback from last year's public consultation, which suggested that residents would like to see a greater focus on improving core council services (parks, leisure, cleanliness etc.) reflected in our improvement objectives.</p>
3.3	<p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <p>Although the objectives are closely aligned to the Belfast Agenda and the extensive engagement that accompanied its development, we are obliged to consult with residents and key stakeholders regarding our annual improvement objectives. Subject to Committee approval, the draft improvement objectives will be issued for public consultation via our on-line platform for a period of 8 weeks. As response rates were low last year, greater promotion and targeted outreach through existing council communication channels and will accompany this consultation to encourage further resident input and improved response. An on-line consultation of this nature is permissible under the local government election protocols providing the pro-active outreach and engagement element is completed prior to 26<sup>th</sup> March.</p>

3.4	<p>Council is legally required to publish a Council Improvement Plan by 30<sup>th</sup> June each year. For 2019 - 20, we will publish a separate improvement plan (previously we incorporated it within the Corporate Plan) with improved easy read layout to help local people more fully understand how council will deliver on its improvement duty. A report will be brought to SP&amp;R in June outlining the results of the consultation and any recommended changes; final improvement objectives will also be brought to the June SP&amp;R in the form of a Draft Improvement Plan for approval and then published on the council website subject to full Council ratification.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Resources Implications</u></p> <p>There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no equality or rural need implications arising directly from this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None attached

