



Council

16th June 2015

Matter for Decision

Title: **COUNCIL COMMITMENTS 2015 - 2019**

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1. Introduction

1.1 This report sets out for members' consideration a draft of the Council's potential over arching commitments for the next four years.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That members agree the over arching commitments of the Council for the next four years.

2.2 That once agreed further work will then be done in order to identify how these commitments will be delivered. That work will then be brought back to a future meeting of the Policy, Finance and Development Committee for further consideration by members.

3. Information

3.1 At the Borough Council elections in May 2015 the make-up of the Council changed as follows.

Pre May 2015

Conservatives	2 seats
First Conserve	2 seats
Liberal Democrats	22 seats

Post May 2015

Conservatives	6 seats
Labour Party	1 seat
Liberal Democrats	19 seats

3.2 This gives the Liberal Democrats overall control of the Council and as the leading group the potential to set the council's priorities for the next four years based on their election manifesto.

3.3 Section 3.4 below sets out those potential commitments and members are being asked to decide if they wish to adopt them for the next four years.

Whatever high level commitments are adopted, the next stage will be for officers to then develop key actions that will support and deliver those commitments and to bring them back to a future meeting of the Policy, Finance and Development committee for further consideration by members.

3.4

Draft

The Council's Commitments 2015 - 2019

Protect the Borough

The Council will resist any attempt by either the City or County Councils to impose their control over the Borough

Maintain Front Line Services

The Council is committed to free shoppers' car parking and weekly collection of waste and recycling. No change would ever be made without consultation.

Offering Choice when Possible

The Council will offer choice when possible.

Save Money through Service Redesign

The Council will look at all our services and redesign those that can be improved and cheaper to run.

Involve Residents and Partners

The Council is committed to continue with the town forums and to develop other community engagements systems. The Council will work with and continue to support partners.

Economic Development

The Council recognises the need to develop both housing and the town centres. This will be done with the maximum of public involvement and at minimum cost to the green spaces in the Borough

Greening the Borough

The Council will continue to invest in and encourage activities which result in a greener Borough including prioritising the protection of trees.

Improving the Health of Residents

The Council wants to ensure residents live a full and healthy life.

Value for Money

The Council will always accept any council tax freeze grant offered by the Government. The Council will endeavour to freeze council tax, but if it is raised, it will never rise more than by inflation.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 Whatever commitments the Council agrees to adopt for the next four years will be entirely linked with the financial resources available. Appendix 1 and 2 therefore sets out the best estimates in relation to the Council's medium term financial position as known at this time. This position will be subject to change as

the national and local funding picture becomes clearer and these developments will be brought before members for further consideration.

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Implications	
Financial (JD)	As set out in Appendix 1 and 2 of the report
Risk (PL)	As set out in Appendix 2 of the report
Equalities (AC)	EAs will be carried out as each commitment is developed.
Legal (AC)	No Significant issues.