

Cabinet

18 November 2015

Review of Council Plan

Key Decision CORP/A/03/15/1



Report of Corporate Management Team

Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive

Simon Henig, Leader of the Council

Purpose of the Report

1. To present for approval the draft Council Plan objectives and outcomes for each Altogether priority theme.

Background

2. The Council Plan details Durham County Council's contribution towards achieving the objectives set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS), together with its own improvement agenda. The Council Plan covers a three year timeframe in line with the council's Medium Term Financial Plan and sets out how we will deliver our corporate priorities and the key actions we will take to support the longer term goals set out in the SCS.
3. This year it is proposed that the existing three year Council Plan is updated and rolled forward a year, with a more fundamental review to take place next year, in line with a refresh of the Sustainable Community Strategy. This year it is proposed to produce a more visual and interactive version of the council plan, in addition to the word version. Early ideas are that it will be a shorter, more impactful plan with a greater use of visual material such as charts, infographics, diagrams and photographs.
4. Service groupings have been working up proposals for the objectives and outcomes framework, key areas of work and performance indicators for inclusion in the Council Plan 2016-19.

Draft Objectives and Outcomes

5. Overall it is recommended that the five key Altogether Better themes remain unchanged in line with the Altogether Better Durham vision set by the County Durham Partnership. It is also recommended that the Altogether Better Council theme is retained giving six key themes as follows:

- i. Altogether Wealthier
 - ii. Altogether Better for Children and Young People
 - iii. Altogether Healthier
 - iv. Altogether Safer
 - v. Altogether Greener
 - vi. Altogether Better Council
6. Sitting beneath each of these six themes are a series of objectives setting out the key goals being pursued over the medium term. The objectives layer is shared across the SCS and Council Plan and was agreed by Council in 2014.
7. Whilst the SCS is a long-term plan, the Council Plan has a medium-term timeframe of three years and is therefore more detailed in nature. The Council Plan contains an additional layer which is the council's outcomes. Outcomes reflect the intended results from our actions and provide the rationale for our interventions. These are subject to more frequent change than objectives. Some additional outcomes and amendments to existing outcomes have been proposed in order to align our framework with the work of the council over the next three years.
8. The proposed changes to the Council Plan outcomes are attached as Appendix 1. There are no proposed changes to the Altogether Wealthier, Altogether Better for Children and Young People and Altogether Healthier frameworks. The changes to the other Altogether themes are summarised below:

Altogether Safer

9. An additional outcome is proposed 'Improved understanding of open water safety' as there are a number of actions being undertaken to increase people's understanding and confidence when around open water. The wording of objective 5 has been amended to reflect the addition of this new outcome.

Altogether Greener

10. Minor wording changes to objective 1 have been proposed so it reads 'Deliver a clean, attractive and sustainable environment'. Two additional outcomes are also proposed under this objective 'Improved land and air quality' and 'well-maintained and accessible parks'. There is a significant amount of work being undertaken around pollution, contaminated land, air quality and ensuring any public space for which we have responsibility remains of a high standard.
11. Outcome G3 'Enhance mitigation and adaptation to climate change' was intended to capture any actions to reduce the effects of climate change. The main programmes of work in this area are around flood defence, coastal erosion and mitigation schemes. However, these feature under another existing outcome G6: 'Communities are more aware and resilient to the impact of extreme weather events'. It is therefore proposed that outcome G3 be deleted to remove duplication between existing outcomes.

Altogether Better Council

12. Minor rewording of outcome ABC 6 is proposed to read 'Responding to the effects of poverty and a Welfare Reform' to reflect the importance of addressing the impacts of poverty. Outcome ABC8 is to be reworded to 'Making the best use of our assets and managing information' making it more plain English.
13. The proposed objectives and outcomes were presented at the members seminars held on 4 November 2015 and comments raised by members are outlined in Appendix 2 and will be considered as the Council Plan is further developed.

Next steps

14. The key milestones for production of the 2016-19 Council Plan and service plans are:

Individual OSCs consider Council Plan objectives and outcomes framework, and performance indicators for their committee to input into the future requirements	January 2016	Assistant Chief Executive and all service groupings
Cabinet considers Council Plan and Service Plans	16 March 2016	Assistant Chief Executive
OSMB considers Council Plan and Service Plans	22 March 2016	Assistant Chief Executive
Full Council considers Council Plan and Service Plans	13 April 2016	Assistant Chief Executive

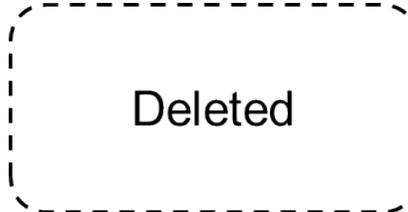
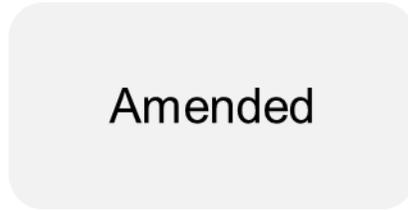
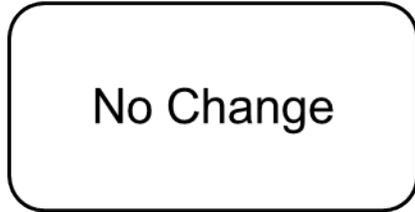
Recommendations and reasons

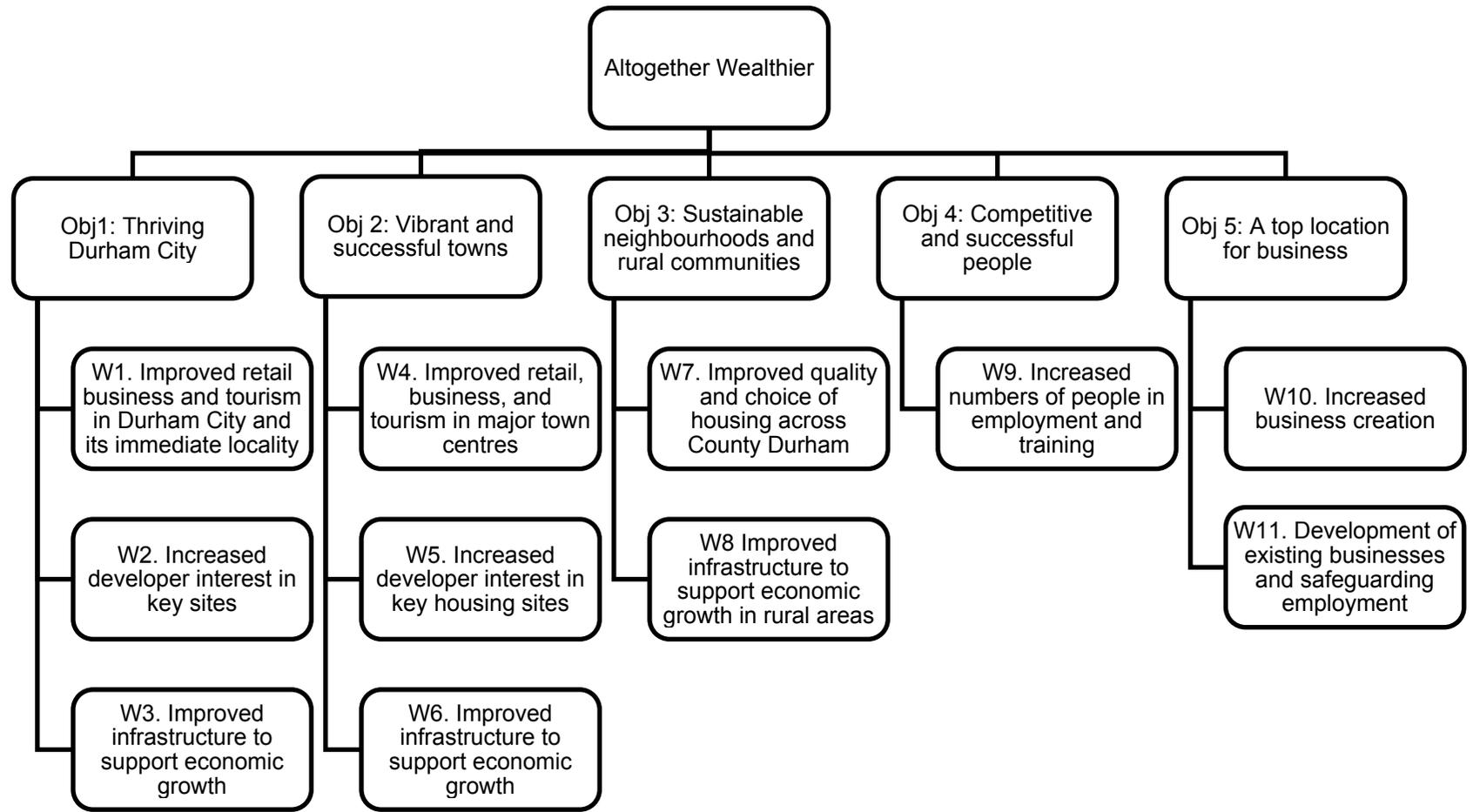
15. Cabinet are asked to:
- i. Agree the approach to rolling forward the current Council Plan;
 - ii. Approve the changes proposed to the Council Plan outcomes framework as outlined in Appendix 1;
 - iii. Note the proposed more fundamental review of the SCS and Council Plan next year.
 - iv. Note the comments raised at the Members seminars outlined in Appendix 2

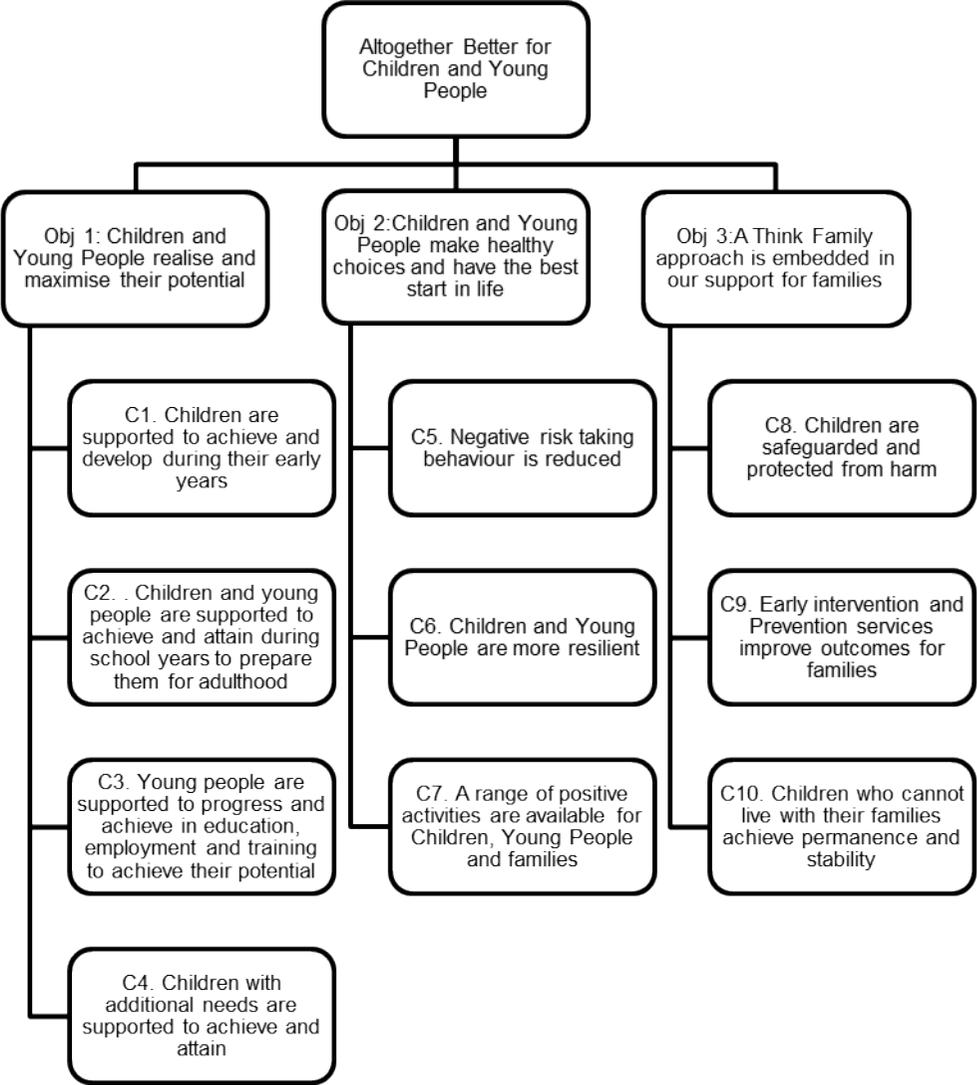
Contact: Jenny Haworth, Head of Planning and Performance, 03000 268071

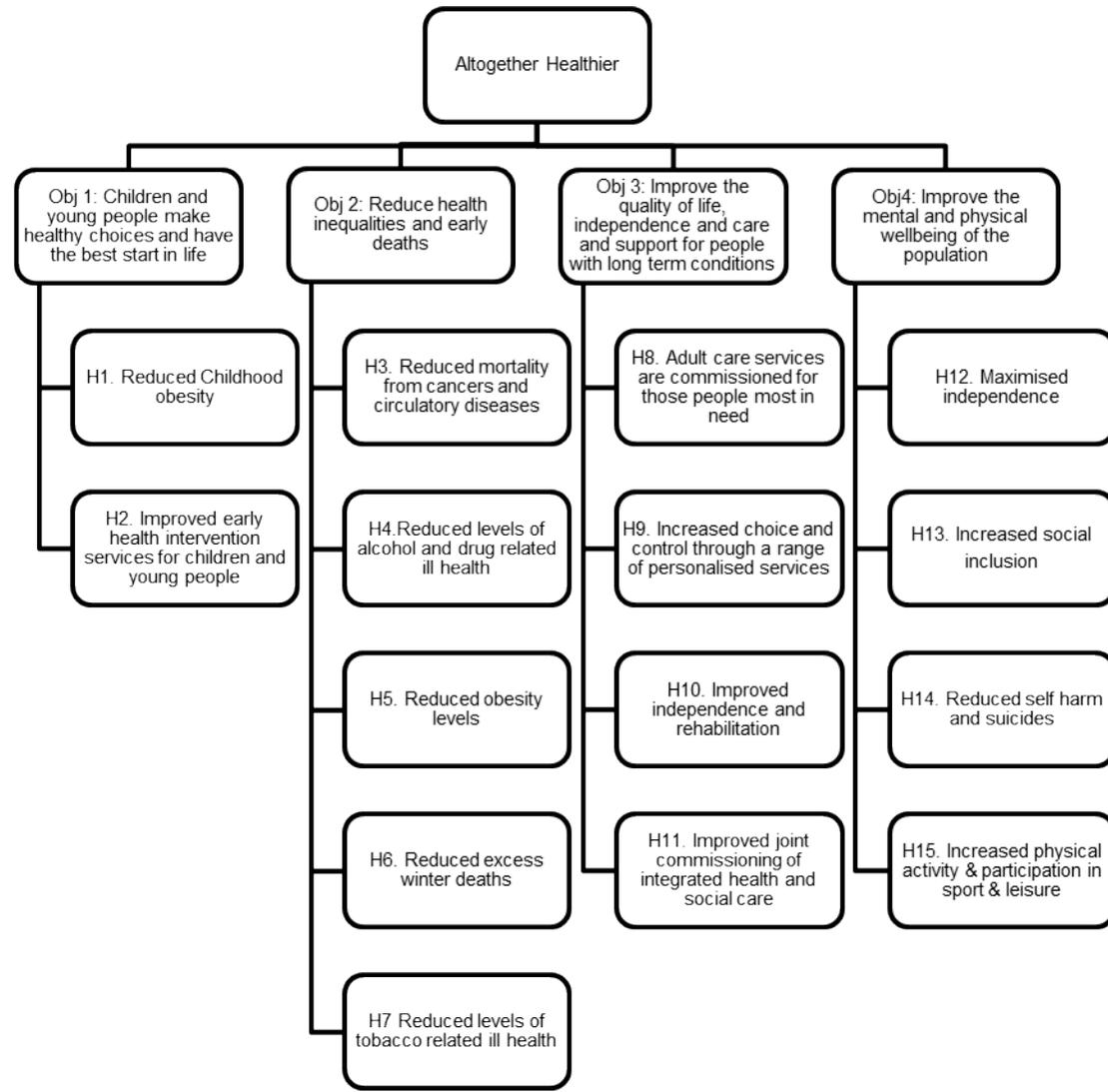
Appendix 1 Proposed Council Plan Objectives and Outcomes 2016_2019

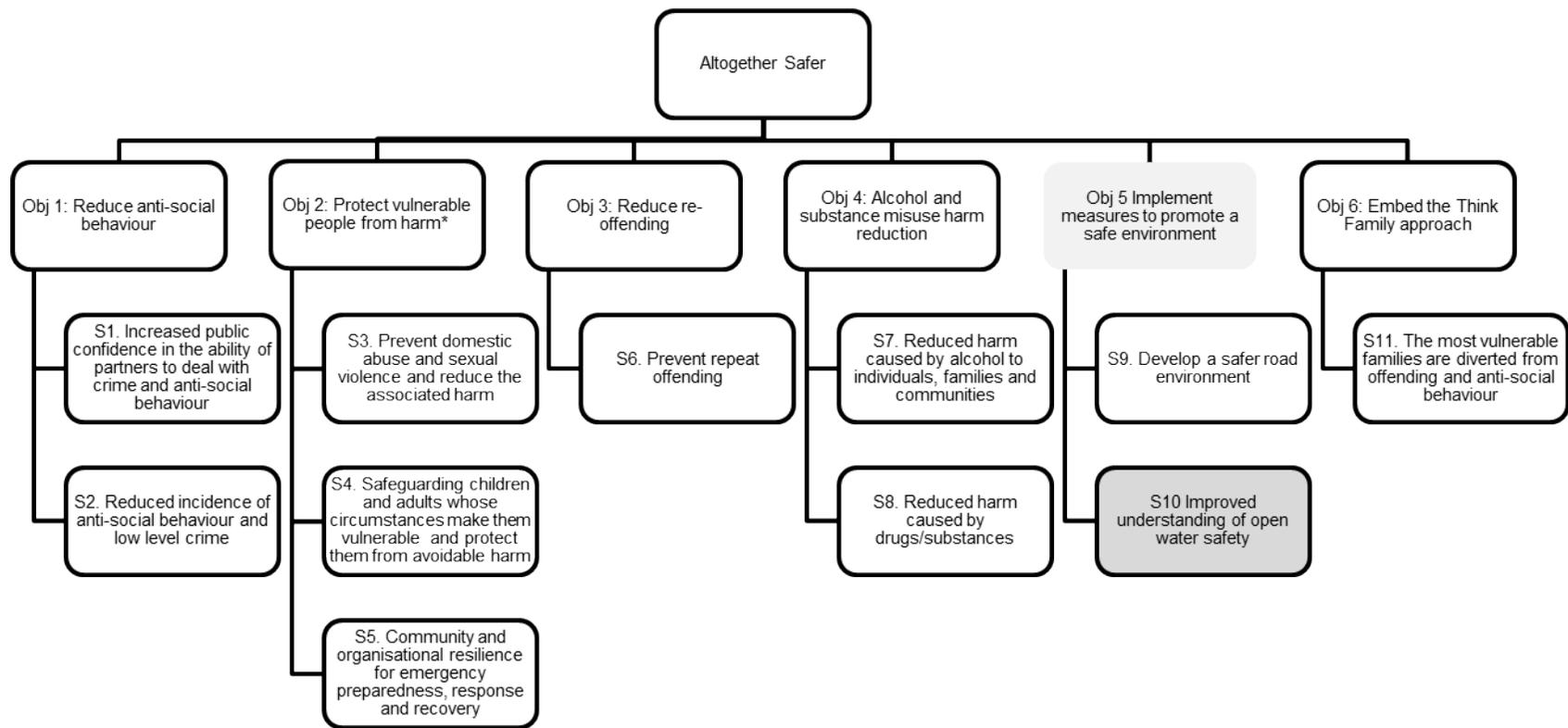
Key

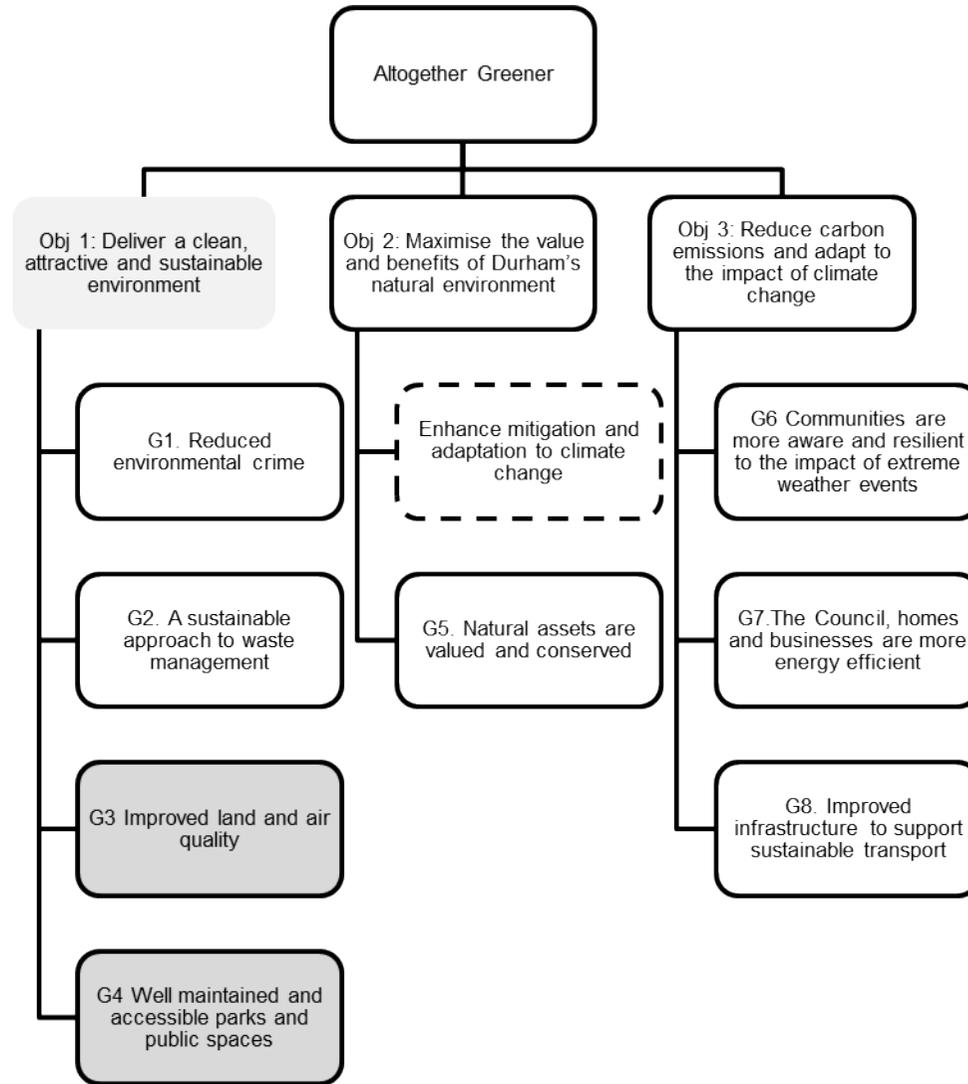


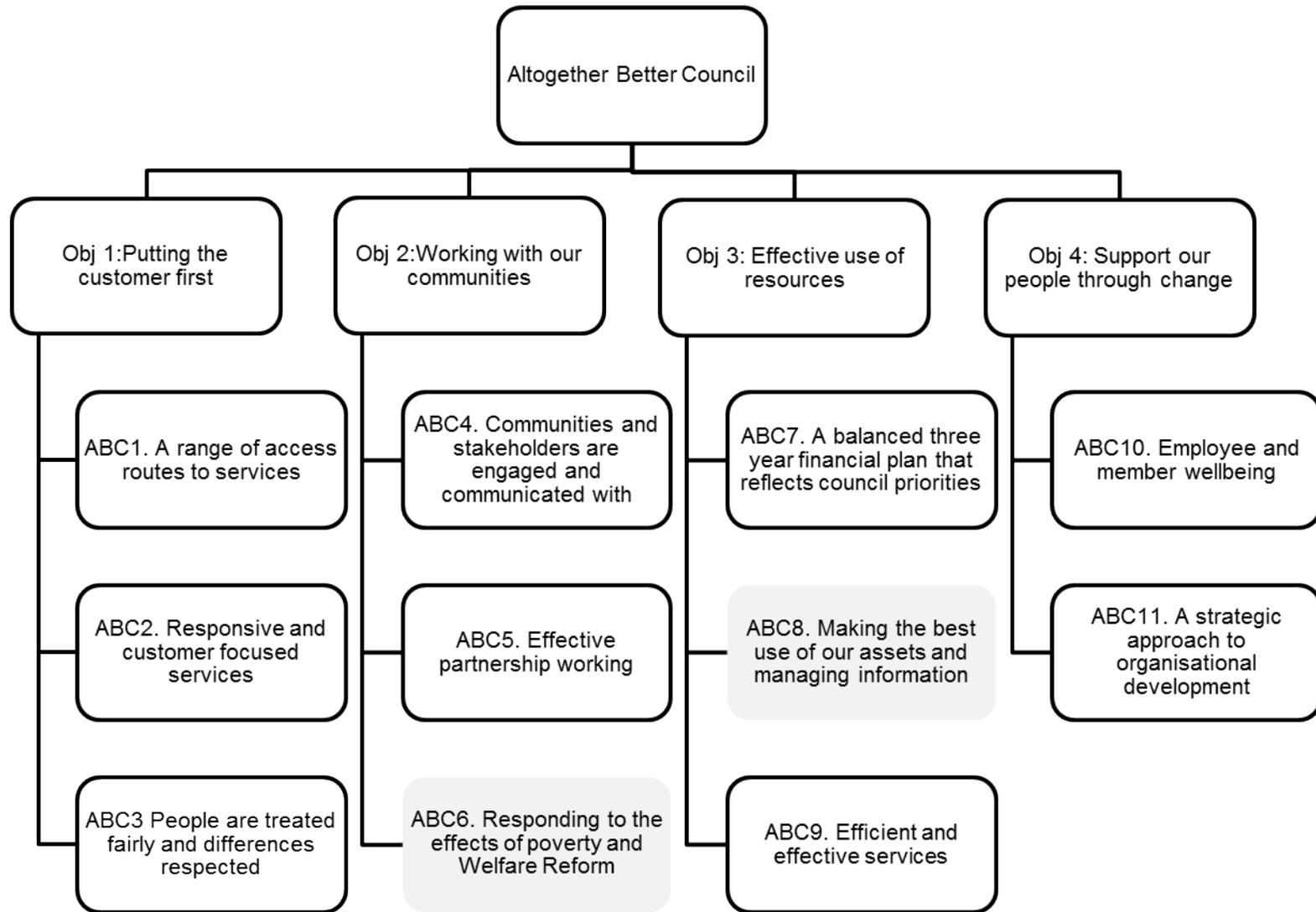












Members Seminars - 4 November 2015

Comments raised by Members

Objective	Outcome	Comment raised
Altogether Wealthier		
N/A	N/A	Why is there nothing about regeneration of some of our villages which are dying a death?
Objective 1 - Thriving Durham City	W2 Increased developer interest in key sites	Members need to have confidence and assurance that we actually have some interest in key sites such as the Aykley Heads site before agreeing to development plans.
Objective 3 - Sustainable neighbourhoods and rural communities	W7 Improved quality and choice of housing across County Durham'	How do we formulate a plan to encourage new housing in village locations?
Objective 4 - Competitive and successful people	N/A	Need to ensure that apprenticeships feature in relation to employment and training.
Altogether Healthier		
Objective 4 - Improve the mental and physical wellbeing of the population	H14 Reduced self-harm and suicides	How do we reduce self-harm?
Altogether Greener		
Objective 3 - Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the impact of climate change	G7 The Council, homes and businesses are more energy efficient	How can we influence what homeowners do and what can the council do to set an example without demolishing our old stock of public buildings?
Objective 2 - Maximise the value and benefits of Durham's natural environment	Enhance mitigation and adaptation to climate change (proposed deletion)	Where do initiatives such as the construction of a new headquarters and encouraging more home working fit with our framework?
Altogether Better Council		
Objective 2 - Working with our communities	ABC4 - Communities and stakeholders are engaged and communicated with	Can we add something about engaging with stakeholders at the planning stage? Often consultation is presented as a fait accompli. The council does not have a monopoly on good ideas and consultation at the planning stage may elicit some innovative solutions from our communities.
Objective 2 - Working with our communities	ABC4 - Communities and stakeholders are engaged and communicated with	Can we add something around accessibility of consultations? Putting consultation on the website only is iniquitous.
Objective 3 -Effective use of resources	ABC8 Making the best use of our assets	When we sell assets who decides the price? How do we ensure that we get best value? Need to ensure that members are informed in good

Objective	Outcome	Comment raised
	and managing information	time of local issues.
Objective 4 -Support our people through change	ABC10 Employee and member wellbeing	Does recent work on sickness absence fit within this priority area. Need to ensure that this is linked in.

GENERAL ISSUES

Comments raised
Can we carry on keeping all of these objectives and outcomes going forward as austerity is stepped up?
Should we continue to maintain aspirational objectives?
Is there a hierarchy to these aims and objectives which would help us to review and rationalise them in the future?