

Subject: The Council's Corporate Plan
(incorporating the Best Value
Performance Plan)

Status: For Publication

Report to: The Cabinet
Overview & Scrutiny –
Management Committee

Date: 6th June 2007
24th May 2007

Report of: The Chief Executive

Portfolio

Holder: Leader of the Council

Key Decision:

NO

Forward Plan

General Exception

Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members of the Cabinet with the opportunity to engage in the annual review and refresh of the Council's Corporate Plan, which incorporates the Council's Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP).
- 1.2 To inform Members of the suggested change to the structure and format of Section 4 of the Corporate Plan in order to more clearly reflect the actions the Council will take to achieve its priorities, together with the development of various measures of performance that will be used to demonstrate the progress being made towards the achievement of the Council's priorities.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1 The matters discussed in this report are designed to provide greater focus to the Council's priorities and to deliver further improvements to the corporate planning process.

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Council's Strategic Risk Register for 2007 – 2010 is contained within the Corporate Improvement Plan. In addition, the strength and effectiveness of the corporate planning process is clearly central to supporting councillors in maintaining g focus on the most important issues and the Council's Corporate Plan is central to this process.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Council's Corporate Improvement Plan also serves as the Council's Best Value Performance Plan and is the Council's primary strategic plan. The BVPP is a 'statutory document' that must be published by the 30th June and accurately reflect the Council's Performance against the full range of Best Value Performance Indicators for 2006 – 7, together with targets against each of those indicators for the next 3 years
- 4.2 The general structure and format of last year's Corporate Improvement Plan was viewed as effective and positively endorsed by Members, the Council's Improvement Board and other stakeholders. The Council is looking to generally follow a similar format to last year, with each section being reviewed and refreshed as appropriate. As the Council has progressed and matured, it is suggested that we now take 'improvement' out of the title of the document, to become simply the 'Council's Corporate Plan'. It is also hoped to reduce the overall length of the document. The most significant proposed change relates to Section 4 - the 'actions' the Council intends to undertake, to more clearly reflect how the Council intends to achieve its stated priorities.
- 4.3 In last year's Corporate Improvement Plan, the actions shown in Section 4 "***What local people can expect to get better and by when***", are set out in a chronological date format, with no particular link drawn towards the Council's priorities. The suggested new structure will show the actions the Council intends to take under each one of the Council's five outwardly focused Corporate Priorities for 2007 – 2010. In addition, a further priority "A Well-Managed Council", will be made up of the three, internally focused priorities described as 'enablers' which focus upon continual improvement within the Council itself.
- 4.4 A set of performance measures are also being developed that will provide solid evidence of the Council's progress towards achieving its priorities over the next three years.
- 4.5 As last year the individual Business Plans, which have been approved by relevant Portfolio Holders will feed the Corporate Improvement Plan. Factual data such as BVPI's outturns & 3 year targets will be incorporated, under a specific delegation, when available in line with the statutory timescales and we are on course to achieve this deadline.
- 4.6 Bringing an early draft of the Corporate Improvement Plan to the O&S (Management Committee) is part of the wider process of engagement that continues to take place around the Council's priorities, directing resources towards the achievement of those priorities and the actions the Council intends to take to achieve them.
- 4.7 The plan will be monitored in a similar way to the current version, using Covalent, the Council's performance system, to do this on a consistent basis across all services.

5. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

- 5.1 The Medium Term Financial Strategy, together with the 2007/08 Budget have previously been approved by Members in line with the Council's corporate objectives and priorities. Service Business Plans have been finalised in line with these priorities and the annual Budget. Other than this there are no further financial implications emerging from the revised Corporate Plan.

6. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

- 6.1 The new structure provides clarity on the Council's priorities and how we will achieve them.

7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

- 7.1 There are no particular Human Resource implications as a result of this report

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The adoption of this new structure will clearly demonstrate to all the Council's stakeholders, the areas in which it intends to direct its time, effort and resources to achieve the Council's priorities. By making progress against these priorities the Council will ultimately, achieve the objectives the Council has set itself, most of which are shared with a range of other organisations through the borough's Local Strategic Partnership.

- 8.2 The proposed new structure will enable the Council to clearly manage and monitor the performance it is making in achieving its priorities, and to provide Members and other Council stakeholders with regular performance reports upon the progress it has made.

- 8.3 The appendices attached represent first drafts of each section of the Corporate Plan and require more work before final publication. Work is also on-going to ensure that the actions and performance indicators shown under each of the Council's priorities are fully reflective of the work the Council, together with its partners is intending to carry out over the next three years, and also that the performance indicators represent an accurate reflection of what the Council is aiming to achieve by 2010. At the same time, we are striving to state the wordings of these actions and indicators of performance in a way that makes it easier for the public to understand what the Council intends to do.

- 8.4 The final version of the Corporate Plan and BVPP will be presented to the Full Council for approval at its meeting on 27th June 2007.

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 9.1 The Cabinet is recommended to agree the proposed format and structure of the Council's Corporate Plan and BVPP and to make any recommendations regarding 'actions' or 'risks' as appropriate.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 10.1 Chief Executive, Director of Resources, All Head of Services, Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holder, Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and the Local Strategic Partnership.

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