

Subject: The Council's Corporate Improvement & Best Value Performance Plan

Status: For Publication

Report to: The Cabinet

Date: 7th June 2006

Report of: Head of Policy & Change Management

Portfolio

Holder: Leader of the Council & Portfolio for Performance Management

Key Decision:

Yes

Forward Plan
Relevant Box

General Exception

Special Urgency

"X" In

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members of the Cabinet with a further opportunity to engage in the development of the Council's Corporate Improvement Plan & Best Value Performance Plan which is the Council's primary strategic plan and sets out how the Council intends to deliver its stated improvement priorities; and, in particular to consider:
- 1.2 Do the range of 'strategic actions' shown within the plan, adequately reflect all the high priority areas for action to be undertaken by the Council during 2006 – 2009 within the context of the Council's revised priorities, budget setting and resource allocation process for 2006 – 2007?
- 1.3 Do the 'Strategic Risks' as shown in the Corporate Risk Register & plans to 'mitigate' those risks cover the strategic risks currently faced by the Council in carrying out the stated strategic actions?

Please note that this is a 'first draft' with several additions still to be made and will require further 'editing & polishing' prior to publication.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 2.1 The Corporate Improvement Plan & BVPP clearly lays out the Council's priorities and the actions it intends to undertake to achieve those priorities.

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Council's Strategic Risk Register is contained within the Corporate Improvement Plan.

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 plan clearly lays out the Council's Objectives and Priorities, demonstrates the 'Golden Thread' and shows how the Council intends to achieve its stated priorities and the outcomes that can be expected as a result of this by the local community.
- 4.2 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 2005 – 6, together with targets against each of those indicators for the next 3 years.
- 4.3 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. Therefore, the Council is looking to generally follow the same format and review and refresh the plan for the period 2006 – 09.
- 4.4 As last year the individual Business Plans will feed the Corporate Improvement Plan and the aim is to have this ready for approval at the Annual Meeting of the Council towards the end of May when the Leader will be able to present it with his "State of the Borough" speech.
- 4.5 The actions that have been successfully completed during 2005/6 will drop out of the plan; those not yet achieved will be carried over to the new CIP for 2006 – 2009, together with a series of new actions the Council intends to undertake.
- 4.6 The basket of Key Success Indicators has been reviewed and a small number of additions and deletions have been made with future 3 year targets against the KSI's currently being finalised.
- 4.7 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.
- 4.8 Bringing an early draft of the Corporate Improvement Plan to the Cabinet (and the O&S Policy & Development 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.
- 4.9 This process is seen as having a number of advantages, but particularly in creating a situation where the Full Council can take ownership of the

Improvement Plan for the municipal year in a way that a report solely on a statutory plan at a later stage will not.

- 4.10 The plan will be monitored in a similar way to the current version, although it is intended to use Covalent to do this on a consistent basis across all services.

5. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

- 5.1 There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

6. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

- 6.1 There are no specific legal issues arising from the proposals set out in this report.

7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

- 7.1 There are no immediate Human Resources implications arising from this report.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The Council's Corporate Improvement Plan clearly expresses the Council's priorities; demonstrates the actions it intends to undertake to achieve these priorities and the outcomes that will be achieved on behalf of local people.

- 8.2 Engaging with Members in the development of the Corporate Improvement Plan is seen as having a number of advantages, but particularly in creating a situation where the Full Council can take ownership of the Improvement Plan for the municipal year in a way that a report solely on a statutory plan at a later stage will not.

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 9.1 The Cabinet is recommended to agree the overall format and structure of the Council's Corporate Improvement 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 for Performance Management and O&S Policy & Development Committee.

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