

## **CORPORATE PLAN (Min. 397/99)**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1. To seek Members' approval for the revised version of the Corporate Plan. The production of a corporate plan is not a statutory responsibility but is a key aspect of the best value regime.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 A draft version of the Corporate Plan was considered by Finance and General Purposes Committee last October (Min. 397/99). At that meeting, Members commented on its content and subject to these comments being incorporated, approved the document for consultation purposes with partner organisations e.g. health, police, adjoining local authorities, parish councils, etc; and other interested groups. That consultation exercise has now been carried out.

### **3 DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **3.1 Value of the Plan:**

- 3.1.1 As outlined in the October report, an up to date Corporate Plan is seen as a key element under the 'Best Value' regime. It is also a document which our auditors have flagged up as particularly important. It has been drawn up to link in closely with the 3 year budget strategy and in this way, provide the Council with a robust framework upon which to base its decision making and monitor those decisions.

#### **3.2 The Content:**

- 3.2.1 The Plan has attempted to take on board decisions which have already been taken by the Council in respect of its policies and proposals. It has also attempted to reflect the changes in legislation which have impacted upon the Authority e.g. Crime and Disorder, Health; are currently impacting upon the Authority e.g. Best Value, Contaminated Land, Electoral Review; or will affect the Authority in the foreseeable future e.g. Modernising Agenda. To afford easy reference between the Corporate Plan and the Budget Strategy; both have 3 year timescales.
- 3.2.2 The key difference between the Plan before Members this evening and the draft Plan relate to an updating and further clarification where appropriate to reflect more recent Council decisions e.g. Mill Hall Complex, Leisure Contract; and particularly in relation to the 3 year budget strategy and capital programme. Where progress has been made or legislation has developed,

that has also been taken into account e.g. Local Government Commission – Electoral Review; the Local Government Bill, the Modernising Agenda. Also, the comments received, included as Appendix C, have been considered and where possible, clarification, emphasis, or amendments have been made.

- 3.2.3 As with the draft Plan, the Corporate Plan before Members comes in two versions. A public version has been prepared and this is reproduced as Appendix A. In addition, a working schedule has been prepared mirroring its content for internal work programme and monitoring purposes, and this is attached as Appendix B. Together the two documents will form the Authority's Corporate Plan framework – the one being the public version and the other the internal working document of the Authority used to monitor progress and aid staff awareness and development.

### **3.3 Publication:**

- 3.3.1 Subject to Members' agreement, the public version of the Plan will be reproduced and sent to partner organisations, interested groups, etc. for information and to raise awareness as to what the Authority's key objectives are over a period. A copy of the Plan will also be placed on the Council's web site.

## **4 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Plan makes reference to the Local Authority's obligations in connection with the Crime and Disorder Reduction strategy

## **5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Plan makes reference to the Local Authority's aspirations in respect of Environmental Stewardship and sustainability

## **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There is approximately £1,600 left in the Chief Executive's budget head which will cover the cost of the printing of the public version of this document. In addition, the Plan's preparation, development and monitoring has impacted upon and will continue to require considerable senior officer time, if it is to be effective as a management tool for the Authority.

## **7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 A Corporate Plan is seen as a key element of the Best Value approach, which is now underpinned by legislation.

## **8 PARISH IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 All Parish and Town Councils will receive a copy of the public versions for information once it is approved.

## **9 RECOMMENDATION**

9.1 It is proposed that the Council RESOLVES:

that subject to any further comments or amendments, the Corporate Plan as set out in Appendix A as a public version and Appendix B as a working document be approved.

Paul Warren

Chief Executive

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### **Background Papers:**

None.

For further information please contact Paul Warrren (01702) 546366