

34. Priorities Review PDF 90 KB**(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Blamire)**

Report of the Chief Executive

Minutes:**(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Blamire)**

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Executive which provided information on the priorities review, to enable Cabinet to decide how it wished to proceed in terms of the Corporate Plan and Budget for 2012-15.

There were no options listed in the report, which provided details on a number of areas of activity which Cabinet Members had requested be considered in more detail. Brief details on how to review each of the activities identified and the process for reporting to Members was set out in the report with the areas of activity identified as follows:

- Increased provision for social housing (including the possibility of council housing new build)
- More allotments because of the current very long waiting lists
- A programme for renewable energy on council houses – to increase energy production to reduce bills for tenants and as a potential financial investment for the council
- Protection of heritage on the Canal Corridor site
- Support for the arts in the district
- Continued funding for PCSO's
- Look at levels of street cleansing and improvement of open spaces
- Diversionary activities for young people
- Housing Regeneration
- Council housing opportunities – new regulations
- Council Tax Benefits localisation and grant reduction
- Implications of business rates changes as far as can be forecast
- Apprenticeships
- Working with the voluntary sector to reduce the amount of rough sleeping in the district.

The report highlighted areas of service for review which could, in turn, affect the council's future priorities. Cabinet were advised that the report needed to be seen in the current financial context which required savings to outweigh growth.

Councillor Hanson proposed, seconded by Councillor Leytham:-

- (1) "That Cabinet agree that the areas of activity identified in the report be fed into the Corporate Plan and budget process and recognise that these relate to all parts of the district, city, coast and countryside."
- (2) "That the areas of activity be amended as follows: 2.2 to include reference to the allotment initiative at Heysham, 2.7 to include reference to visitor as well as street signage."

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That Cabinet agree that the areas of activity identified in the report be fed into the Corporate Plan and budget process and recognise that these relate to all parts of the district, city, coast and countryside.
- (2) That the areas of activity be amended as follows: 2.2 to include reference to the allotment initiative at Heysham, 2.7 to include reference to visitor as well as street signage.

Officers responsible for effecting the decision:

Chief Executive

Reasons for making the decision:

The decision to agree to the areas of activity recognises the council's commitment to city, coast and countryside and will assist in the development of the budget process.