

COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Policy Framework – Annual Report 2007/08 26th June 2008

Report of Corporate Performance Manager

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To approve the Council's Annual Report.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) That the Annual Report be approved for publication on 30th June 2008.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council's Corporate Plan and Annual Report together form the statutory Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) and are part of the Council's Policy Framework. The Corporate Plan was agreed by Council at its meeting of 16th April 2008 (Minute Number 146) and sets out the Council's medium term aspirations.
- 1.2 The content of the Annual Report is prescribed by Government and looks back at the Council's performance for the last full financial year and will be subject to external scrutiny for compliance with statutory requirements by our auditors KPMG.
- 1.3 Extensive changes to the nationally prescribed performance framework, means that this is a year of transition for local government. Provisions in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 remove the requirement for best value authorities to compile and publish an annual BVPP.
- 1.4 However, for the last 10 years the BVPP has been the key mechanism through which authorities report their outturn performance and removing the duty to publish may well leave a gap in public reporting of performance. Further Audit Commission guidance on the annual Use of Resources (UOR) judgment published in March 2008 clarifies the position somewhat. Authorities should continue to publish an Annual Report and may be only excused the duty to publish in future if they have canvassed the views of stakeholders and established that they do NOT wish the council to produce one.

2.0 Content of the Annual Report

- 2.1 The UOR guidance also includes a new duty for authorities to publish information and analysis about its environmental footprint. Members will see that this has been included in our Annual Report for the first time.
- 2.2 2007/08 was also the last year for collection of the familiar Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI's). From 1 April 2008 these have been replaced with a new set of statutory National Performance Indicators. To avoid confusion in this transitional year, only BVPIs and a small number of local indicators will be reported in the Annual Report this year.
- 2.3 Similarly, whilst it has previously been our custom to include three years of future targets, the significant changes to the national framework mean that for the sake of clarity, future targets have not been included in this report for this year only.

3.0 Approving the Plan

- 3.1 The Council is obliged by the terms of the Local Government Act 1999 to publish its BVPP by 30th June every year. The document must be approved by Members prior to publication.
- 3.2 On 7th February 2007, the responsibility for approval of the Annual Report was delegated to Council Business Committee to enable the Council to meet its statutory requirements in a straightforward manner.
- 3.3 Members should note that the financial information (p33 onwards) is incomplete. This section will be considered by Audit Committee (26th June 2008) and approved as part of the process for the close-down of the Council's year-end accounts. This information will be incorporated into this document immediately thereafter.
- 3.4 The Annual Report is due to be considered by the Budget and Performance Panel at its meeting on 15 July 2008.

4.0 Details of consultation

- 4.1 The Annual Report will be available on the Council's website and will be available for public comment after 30th June 2008.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Corporate Plan and Annual Report are an integral part of the Council's Policy Framework documents.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None arising directly from this report

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Adequate budgetary provision has been made within the Corporate Management budget from which the cost of producing the Annual Report will be funded. The 2007/08 Statement of Accounts will be considered by the Audit Committee at its meeting on 26th June 2008 and the detailed financial outturn will be considered by Cabinet on 8th July 2008. There are no further financial implications as a result of this report.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no comments to add

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council has a statutory duty in relation to Best Value within the terms of S6 of the Local Government Act 1999 to produce the information that it is suggested to include in the Annual Report

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Deputy Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no comments to add

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Minute 146 of Council meeting 16th April 2008

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