

**Strategic Planning
07 November 2017****Report of the Chief Executive**

PURPOSE OF REPORT			
To seek endorsement of Cabinet's initial outline Corporate Plan proposals, to enable further development work and engagement to progress.			
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Referral from Officer			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
This report is public.			

RECOMMENDATIONS OF COUNCILLORS BLAMIRE AND WHITEHEAD:

- (1) That the draft corporate planning principles and priorities attached at Appendix A be endorsed and be used to inform further development of the draft Corporate Plan, together with supporting budget proposals.
- (2) That the outline timetable as set out at Appendix B be approved, noting the intention for Cabinet to publish before Christmas further information on its Corporate Plan proposals, alongside its draft budget proposals.
- (3) That the resolutions above be fed into the November meeting of Budget and Performance Panel with a request for their initial feedback, but highlighting the scope for these initial proposals to change in response to any emerging issues as the budget and planning exercise progresses.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 To progress the Council's strategic planning, the following proposals have been developed regarding the Corporate Plan, to inform future detailed work and engagement on Cabinet's budget proposals.
- 1.2 This report, and the resolutions arising from the Cabinet meeting, will BE referred on to the November meeting of Budget and Performance Panel as the first step in that engagement.

2.0 Proposed Principles and Priorities

- 2.1 A series of workshops involving Cabinet Members and Officers has produced four suggested principles (with the purpose of underpinning all the Council's activity) and four suggested priorities (to clearly state the Council's ambitions for the district).

2.2 The suggested principles are:

- **Community Leadership**
Engaging meaningfully with residents, businesses and other partners
- **Shaping the Place**
Acting as a champion for the development of the district as a place to live, work and visit
- **Ambition and Commercialisation**
Taking a business-like approach to delivering value-for-money services
- **Valuing Distinctiveness**
Recognising the distinctiveness of the district's localities and communities

2.3 The suggested priorities are:

- **Clean and Safe Neighbourhoods**
- **Healthy and Happy Communities**
- **A Thriving and Prosperous Economy**
- **An Ambitious and Forward-Thinking Council**

2.4 A working draft of these draft principles and priorities is summarised at **Appendix A**. Cabinet is requested to endorse them, and subject to any amendments, Officers would then use them to develop more detailed corporate planning proposals, as well as supporting budget proposals.

3.0 Proposed Consultation and Engagement Timetable

3.1 Cabinet is seeking to take a more consultative approach to the development of the Corporate Plan and Budget, from both an internal and external perspective – this is through engagement with other Members, as well as residents, businesses and the Council's partner organisations, to help establish a consensus across the district.

3.2 It is therefore proposed that such engagement activity takes place alongside the Corporate Plan and Budget development phase. The outline timetable can be found at **Appendix B**.

3.3 The exact extent of public engagement would be driven by the nature of Cabinet's strategic planning and budget proposals – significant change would warrant more extensive consultation, for example.

3.4 The nature of Cabinet's proposals will be influenced by the Council's financial outlook and any emerging national policy changes, however, and there is still much uncertainty around these.

3.5 As a result, the detail of external engagement/consultation plans will be addressed in the coming weeks. The key points highlighted at this stage are:

- Cabinet would receive an update on the overall budget position and financial outlook at its meeting on 05 December. Between then and Christmas, Cabinet would refine its corporate planning and budget proposals.
- Cabinet would publish those planning and budget proposals by Christmas,

to underpin consultation and engagement.

- Corporate planning and budget proposals would then flow through the usual round of Cabinet, Council and Budget and Performance Panel meetings in the lead up to Budget Council.
- The detail of public engagement events to be held after Christmas and any other arrangements would be confirmed in due course. The plan at this stage is to hold a small number of informal drop-in sessions at key locations across the district, to enable the public and any interested groups to find out more about Cabinet’s proposals and give their views.

4.0 Options and Options Appraisal

4.1 Cabinet may either approve the proposals or set out, or make changes depending on its views regarding the Council’s strategic direction, and/or its appetite for consultation and engagement. The implications of any alternatives put forward would be highlighted at the meeting as far as possible, or subsequently appraised and reported back.

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 Once endorsed, Cabinet’s initial corporate planning ideas would give a sound basis on which to develop further its more detailed strategic planning and budget proposals, and the planned engagement would help in communicating and potentially shaping those proposals ahead of Budget Council.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK
The proposals are in support of reviewing the Corporate Plan, it being the key part of the Council’s policy framework.
CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT (including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, HR, Sustainability and Rural Proofing):
Full equality impact assessments would be undertaken in due course, in respect of detailed proposals. Cabinet has taken account of much information in developing its proposals to date, to help ensure that they provide a framework to help focus on any key issues such as equality.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS
There are no legal implications arising at this time; specific matters would be considered and addressed as Cabinet’s proposals develop.
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS
None directly arising (the same as for legal implications).
OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS, such as Human Resources, Information Services, Property, Open Spaces:
None directly arising (the same as for legal implications).

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The s151 Officer has contributed to this report and she has no further comments to add.

DEPUTY MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Deputy Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

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