



Report of the Chief Officer Executive Support

Executive Board

Date: 13th June 2007

Subject: The Council Plan 2007/08

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In

(Details contained in the report)

Executive Summary

This report sets out the approval process for the production of the Council Plan 2007/08. The nature of the Council Plan is such that it is continually revised and updated as information becomes available, right up to publication date on 30 June 2007. In order to allow Members access to the latest draft version it will be made available via the intranet from 11 June 2007.

1.0 Purpose of this report

1.1 The report seeks to update Executive Board with regard to the production of the Council Plan 2007/08.

2.0 Background information

2.1 Under Section 6 of the Local Government Act 1999, the Council is required to publish an annual performance plan by 30 June each year. All authorities categorised in CPA as 'four star' or 'three star' must include the following items in their Performance Plan:

(a) Details of performance:

- outturn performance over the past year on all Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs)¹
- targets for the current year and subsequent 2 years for all BVPIs.

¹ For plans published by June 2007, the reference to 'past year' relates to 2006/07

(b) A brief statement on contracts. The authority should state and certify that all individual contracts awarded during the past year which involve a transfer of staff comply, where applicable, with the requirements in the Code of Practice on Workforce Matters in Local Authority Service Contracts.

- 2.2 The council chooses to comply with this statutory requirement through the publication of the Council Plan, which is currently being prepared by officers from across the council.
- 2.3 This year's Council Plan will be the second annual progress report of the council's Corporate Plan (2005-2008), setting out what the council has achieved to date and the actions to be progressed over the next twelve months.
- 2.4 The nature of the Council Plan is such that work will continue to refine the information it contains, right up to the statutory deadline of 30 June 2007. The fact the Council Plan is such a moving feast makes it very difficult to provide an up-to-date copy with the agenda papers. In order that Members of Executive Board have access to the latest version a draft copy of the plan will be circulated at the meeting. Thereafter, the draft will be posted on the intranet, and updated periodically in the run-up to Council.
- 2.5 The Council Plan will be presented to the meeting of Full Council on 20 June for agreement prior to publication.
- 2.6 Following approval of the Council Plan by Full Council, the plan will be available on the council's internet site on the 30 June 2007 in line with statutory guidance. Hard copies of the plan will be available in August.

3.0 Modifications

- 3.1 The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, provide that any modification to any plan or strategy which comprises the council's Budget and Policy Framework must be approved or adopted by Full Council unless at the time of approving the plan or strategy, the Council has delegated freedom to the Executive to make any necessary "in-year" modifications.
- 3.2 The guidance suggests that the Council should, at the same time as approving or adopting the relevant plan or strategy; agree which elements of it the Executive will have the freedom to amend. However, non-urgent decisions which are contrary to the plans or strategies agreed by Full Council must be taken by the Full Council.
- 3.3 If the Executive makes any such modifications to any plan or strategy which comprises the Council's Budget and Policy Framework, then these modifications should be reported to Full Council at the next available Council meeting.
- 3.4 It is therefore proposed, in line with previous years, to recommend to Full Council that the Executive be authorised to make any necessary "in year" amendments in the light of experience gained in implementing the Plan and these changes be reported retrospectively to Full Council.

4.0 Implications for council policy and governance

- 4.1 The following paragraph is included in the council's Corporate Governance Statement:

"The council has a statutory responsibility to produce an annual report containing Best Value Performance Indicator information – The Best Value Performance Plan by 30 June each year. The council chooses to comply with this statutory requirement through the publication of the Council Plan. The BVPIs are subject to independent verification by the council's appointed auditors; any amendments to the BVPI information following verification will be published as an addendum at a later date, this information will also be available on the council's internet site."

5.0 Legal and resource implications

5.1 Financial resources required for the achievement of the Council Plan actions are budgeted for within the council's previously agreed revenue and capital budgets.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 Executive Board is asked to note this report and recommend that Members of Full Council:

- Approve the Council Plan to allow publication by 30 June 2007;
- Authorise the Chief Executive to update and complete the Council Plan with any outstanding information prior to its publication on 30 June 2007; and
- Authorise the Executive to make any necessary in-year amendments to the Council Plan subject to the amendments being reported to the next available Council meeting.