

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

Report to the Executive Board

Date: 15th July 2015

Subject: Best Council Plan Annual Performance Report 2014/15 and Annual Corporate Risk Management Report (June 2015)

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:		
Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues

Two annual reports are presented for Executive Board:

1. A year-end performance report that highlights the progress made throughout 2014-15 in delivering the six strategic objectives set out in the Best Council Plan. Producing this annual report is in line with best practice and the authority's performance management framework. The report draws on and links with a range of supporting council and partnership plans against which performance is regularly assessed and reported: these include the Annual Financial Plan; Children & Young People's Plan; Health & Wellbeing Strategy; Core Strategy; Adult Social Care Local Account and Citizens@Leeds Strategy.
2. An accompanying summary risk management report on how the authority manages its most significant risks. In order to deliver our Best Council objectives, it is essential that we understand, manage and communicate the range of risks that could threaten the organisation and the vital services the council provides.

Recommendations

Executive Board is recommended to:

1. Note and discuss the annual performance report and the progress made against the council's objectives in 2014-15.
2. Note and discuss the annual summary corporate risk management report and the assurances given on the management of the council's most significant strategic risks.
3. Also note that a further report will be presented in September on reviewing the Best Council Plan objectives to reflect the new national and local context, to incorporate content from related strategies and to help inform the 2016/17 council budget.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report presents to Executive Board the annual performance report which provides an update on progress made in 2014-15 against the six objectives set out in the Best Council Plan. It also presents the annual summary risk management report which explains the approach to risk management and how we manage our most significant risks, supporting our ambitions of Leeds being the best council and best city.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Executive Board approved the updated 'Best Council Plan 2013-17' on 25th June 2014. The plan set out six objectives for 2014/15. It was agreed as part of our performance management framework that an annual report should be produced for the Executive Board at the end of the financial year, looking back on our performance in delivering the objectives.
- 2.2 In order to deliver these objectives, it is essential that we understand, manage and communicate the range of risks that could threaten the organisation and the vital services the council provides. To support the annual performance report, an accompanying annual risk management report has therefore been produced that summarises how the authority manages its most significant risks. Providing this report to the Executive Board also supports compliance with the council's Risk Management Policy.
- 2.3 The Best Council Plan 2013-17 was recently refreshed: the revised Best Council Plan 2015-20 was approved by the Executive Board on 18th March 2015. This has retained last year's six objectives for 2015/16, set within a longer-term 5-year context. Executive Board is asked to note that a further report will be presented in September on reviewing the Best Council Plan objectives to reflect the new national and local context, to incorporate content from related strategies and to help inform the 2016/17 council budget.

3 Main issues

3.1 *Best Council Plan Annual Report June 2015*

- 3.1.1 A year on from the update of the Best Council Plan 2013/17 in July 2014, it is best practice to look back at progress over 2014/15 against our objectives noting any key successes and challenges.
- 3.1.2 Appendix 1 provides the draft text for this annual report. In brief, the report comprises an introduction to the document, updates on progress against each of the six objectives and the final 2014-15 year end position against the performance measures included in the Best Council Plan 'scorecard' (most significant key performance indicators). This content will be worked up into the final design version prior to publication based upon the format used for the revised Best Council Plan 2015/20 that was approved by the Executive Board on 18th March 2015. An example of this design using one of the objectives is provided at Appendix 2.
- 3.1.3 The report highlights some of the real achievements that the council, working with partners and in the context of reductions in funding, have made over the last twelve months. Some of these achievements include:
- Innovative Council Tax support scheme helping people into work
 - Grand Depart boosted economy by £17m
 - Ofsted rated Children's Services as 'good' overall

- Better Lives programme reducing time older people spend in care homes

3.1.4 However, challenges remain: inequalities continue in terms of health, educational attainment and earnings and there are shifting demographics and demands on our services within the context of reduced funding. Our refreshed Best Council Plan sets out how we plan to address these challenges as part of our vision for Leeds to be a compassionate, caring city that helps all its residents benefit from the effects of the city's economic growth.

3.2 *Risk Management Annual Report*

3.2.1 A companion report summarising the council's approach to managing risk and how we manage seven of our most significant strategic risks is provided at Appendix 3. Again, this is a draft text version that will be worked up into the final design version prior to publication.

3.3 *Publication*

3.3.1 Both reports are intended for an internal and external audience of staff, elected members, partners and the public. They will therefore be published on the leeds.gov and Intranet websites as part of the suite of Best Council documents.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 The Best Council Plan 2013/17 was subject to consultation with the Corporate Leadership Team, key officers and Executive Board and took into account discussions at Executive Board and Full Council as well as Scrutiny inquiries and Area Committees. In addition, the budget for 2014-15 and the medium-term financial plan that align with the Best Council Plan were informed by an extensive consultation process with the public and elected members.

4.1.2 The annual Best Council Plan performance report presented at Appendix 1 and the annual corporate risk report at Appendix 3 have been subject to consultation with key officers for each objective / risk respectively and the Corporate Leadership Team. The annual reports draw on and link with a range of published reports assessing performance against supporting council and partnership plans: these include the Annual Financial Plan; Children & Young People's Plan; Health & Wellbeing Strategy; Core Strategy; Adult Social Care Local Account and Citizens@Leeds Strategy. These aligned plans have been informed by extensive consultation with the public, elected members and other key stakeholders.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 This report provides an update on progress against the Best Council Plan objectives and our management of the Council's risks and as such is not a decision making report so due regard is not directly relevant.

4.2.2 Specific equality impact assessments will continue to be undertaken on individual initiatives and decisions relating to the delivery of the Best Council Plan.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

4.3.1 This report brings to Executive Board a performance update on progress against the council's 2014-15 Best Council Plan objectives. Significant risks to their delivery are identified and managed through the council's Risk Management Framework. The combined risk and performance arrangements help to focus discussion, prioritise resources and enable justifiable risk-tasking, supporting the successful delivery of the Best Council Plan.

- 4.3.2 The corporate risk management arrangements in place also support compliance with the Council's Risk Management Policy and Code of Corporate Governance, through which, under Principle 4, the authority should take 'informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and risk management'.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 One of the main aims of the Best Council Plan is to enable the Council to deliver the medium-term financial plan and vice versa and, as such, the resource implications are inherently reflected. The management of the Best Council Plan through the production of associated performance and risk management information are resourced through existing teams across the council and therefore have no specific resource implications.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.2 This report is subject to call in. All information within this report is publicly available.
- 4.5.3 The council's risk management arrangements support the authority's compliance with the statutory requirement under the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2011 (Section 4.1) to have 'a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of that body's functions and which includes arrangements for the management of risk.'

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 There are no risks associated with the two annual assurance reports attached.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 Two annual reports have been produced for Executive Board: an annual performance report that highlights the progress made throughout 2014-15 in delivering the six strategic objectives in the Best Council Plan and an accompanying annual risk management report that summarises how the authority manages its most significant strategic risks. Draft text versions are provided in the appendices prior to being worked up into final design versions for publication.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 Executive Board is recommended to:
- Note and discuss the annual performance report and the progress made against the council's objectives in 2014-15.
 - Note and discuss the annual summary corporate risk management report and the assurances given on the management of the council's most significant strategic risks.
- 6.2 Executive Board is also asked to note that a further report will be presented in September on reviewing the Best Council Plan objectives to reflect the new national and local context, to incorporate content from related strategies and to help inform the 2016/17 council budget.

7 Background documents¹

- 7.1 None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.