



Report of the Chief Officer (Executive Support)

Full Council

Date: 21st June 2006

Subject: The Council Plan 2006/07

Electoral wards affected:

Specific implications for:

- Ethnic minorities
- Women
- Disabled people
- Narrowing the gap

Executive Summary

The report seeks the approval of Full Council with regard to the publication of the council's Best Value Performance Plan – the Council Plan 2006/07. The plan provides the first annual progress report on the council's Corporate Plan (2005 – 2008) and sets out what the council intends to achieve against our corporate priorities over the course of the twelve months ending March 2007. The plan also reports against both statutory and local performance indicators for the year ending 31 March 2006.

Background information

- 1.1 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 'Excellent' and 'Good' 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.
- (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.
- 1.2 The council chooses to comply with this statutory requirement through the publication of the Council Plan, which is prepared by officers from across the council.

¹ For plans published by June 2005, the reference to 'past year' relates to 2004/05

- 1.3 This year's Council Plan will be the first annual progress report of the council's Corporate Plan (2005-2008), highlighting what the council has achieved. The 2006/07 Council Plan will also set out what the council aims to achieve against the corporate priorities over the next twelve months.
- 1.4 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 2006. Therefore, whilst Members have a substantially complete document, Members are asked to authorise the Executive to update and complete the plan with any outstanding information prior to its publication on 30 June 2006.
- 1.5 The final version of the plan will be available on the council's Internet site on the 30 June in line with statutory guidance. Published copies of the plan will be available in August following publication. Members of Executive Board will receive the full and final plan at their meeting in July.

2 In Year Amendments

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 It is, therefore, proposed 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.

3 Implications for council policy and governance

- 3.1 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 30th June. 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.

4 Legal and resource implications

- 4.1 The council has a statutory responsibility to produce an annual report containing Best Value Performance Indicator information – The Best Value Performance Plan by 30th June.
- 4.2 Financial resources required for the publication of the Council Plan are budgeted for within the council's revenue budget.

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

Full Council is asked to:

- Approve the Council Plan to allow publication by 30 June 2006;
- Authorise the Chief Executive to update and complete the Council Plan with any outstanding information prior to its publication on 30 June 2006; 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.