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## Report of the Acting Chief Officer Executive Support

### Executive Board

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> June 2006

Subject: The Council Plan 2006/07

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Electoral wards affected:

Specific implications for:

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the gap

Eligible for call In

Not eligible for call in

(Details contained in the report)

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## Executive Summary

The report seeks to update Executive Board with regard to the production of the council's Best Value Performance Plan – the Council Plan 2006/07 and highlights the approval process for the Plan. The nature of the Council Plan is that it is continually revised and up dated as information becomes available, right up to publication date on 30<sup>th</sup> June. In order to allow Members access to the latest version the report also explains how to access an up to date electronic version of the draft Plan via the intranet site from 6<sup>th</sup> June.

## 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)<sup>1</sup>
- 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

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

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 currently being prepared by officers from across the council.
- 1.3 This year's Council Plan will be the first annual progress report of the council's Corporate Plan (2005-2008), setting out what the council has achieved. The 2006/07 Council Plan will also present 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 week before the statutory deadline of 30 June 2006. The fact the Council Plan is such a moving feast makes it very difficult to provide an up to date copy with agenda papers. In order that Councillors have access to the latest version it has been agreed that no hard copy will be provided with this agenda, however, an updated copy of the draft plan will be posted on the intranet daily from 6<sup>th</sup> June. In this way Members will be able to access the very latest version prior to Executive Board rather than relying on an out of date version from the previous week. Members will receive an e mail on June 6<sup>th</sup> providing a link to the draft document.
- 1.5 A hard copy of the draft Council Plan will however, be presented to the meeting of Full Council 21<sup>st</sup> June and Members will be briefed accordingly.
- 1.6 Following approval of the Council Plan by Full Council, the plan will be available on the council's Internet site on the 30<sup>th</sup> June in line with statutory guidance. Hard copies of the plan will be available in August following publication.

## **2 Main issues**

- 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

The Council Plan 2006/07 also provides an annual progress report of the council's achievements against its priorities as set out in the three year Corporate Plan 2005 – 2008. The plan also highlights the key activities which the council hopes to achieve against its priorities in 2006/07.

#### **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 30<sup>th</sup> June.

Financial resources required for the publication of the Council Plan are budgeted for within the council's revenue budget.

The production of the Council Plan is within the annual work programme of the Policy, Performance and Improvement Team; there are no additional resources required.

#### **5 RECOMMENDATIONS**

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 2005;
- Authorise the Chief Executive to update and complete the Council Plan with any outstanding information prior to its publication on 30 June 2005; 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.