

POLICY, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

20 APRIL 2011

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CORPORATE ISSUES

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 As agreed at the last meeting of the Committee the purpose of this report is to agree the Council's Corporate Plan and Improvement Plan to assist in settling the direction of the Council following the Election.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:-

- 2.1 **The Corporate Plan be approved.**
- 2.2 **The Improvement Plan be approved.**
- 2.3 **The update reports from the Performance Management Task Group and the Extraordinary Efficiency Task Group be noted.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 As agreed at the Committee on 2 March 2011, in order to ensure the Council's direction of travel is maintained at least for the first year of the new administration and Council, the Corporate Plan is attached at Appendix A for approval.
- 3.2 As agreed with Members the Corporate Plan is now aligned to three themes. These being "People", "Places" and "A Well Run Council." The change to these three areas of activity mirror the Council's organisational structures and the Neighbourhoods agreed for Parkside. Also, it reflects and continues the Council's learning with respect to work and activities with People and in the Places in which they live. To obtain the best outcomes this work needs to be fully integrated and coordinated into Council priorities. The detail of the Council's activities and Action Plans will sit within the Service Plans as indicated within the Corporate Plan document and it is intended that these will be approved by the New Council at meetings as part of the June cycle.
- 3.3 Attached at Appendix B is the finalised Improvement Plan, taking into account the National, Sub Regional and Local changes to Public Services Delivery and future requirements. The Improvement Plan takes into account work required upon the delivery of Community Budgets, which has now been authorised and "gone live" within the County, the Big Society which Members indicated they wished to debate and consider as part of the work of the New Administration and ongoing major issues such as the Housing Revenue Account review and the recently commenced Funding Review for Local Government. Major activity revolves around the Council's New Build project, continued cultural change and the New Ways of Working. Business as Usual activities will be carried out by the services with specific areas for action or improvement detailed in Service Plans as mentioned above. The key Risk relating to management of capacity and resources (Risk 52) has been considerably reviewed by Management Team and the revisions are attached at Appendix C for Members' information.
- 3.4 An element of the work set out in the Improvement Plan is the revision of the Council's Performance Management Framework. The Task Group set up to oversee revisions and

changes has authorised a pilot exercise in two areas of the Council's work linked to the outcomes as set in the draft Corporate Plan, using a simplified version of the Severn Trent methodology and approach. The outcomes from this review will be presented to Members at the next meeting of the Task Group for consideration and feedback. The Task Group is also overseeing the assimilation of requirements from other Performance Frameworks, in particular, that related to the Countywide Sustainable Community Strategy which whilst being simplified still gives Officers concern that we have not yet reached a system which is reasonable and proportionate. Discussions with County colleagues and other interested parties takes place at the Countywide Performance Group at which this Council is represented. Finally, the Governments approach to transparency through publication of data is moving ahead. Further "lists" of information have been put forward for consultation as publication is mooted.

- 3.5 A significant area of concern is the way the data has to be provided to Government. Representations from this Council have indicated that any need to assimilate the data into a National Framework, other than those Frameworks already in existence such as Housing Returns, will create another "industry" which will have to be resourced. Many Council's, including this Council, have significantly reduced their resources allocated to Performance Management on the understanding that the Coalition intended to "reduce this significant burden." Reports on these concerns, together with updates concerning Local Government Association offer and approach will and are being made to the Task Group to provide guidance to Officers.
- 3.6 The Extraordinary Efficiency Task Group has not met since the last meeting of this Committee due to a need to postpone the intended meeting with the Chair of Rural Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee. A rescheduled date of 15 April 2011 to meet the Chair of that Committee and the Chair of Policy, Finance and Administration Committee has been set up and any feedback will be given verbally at the meeting.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Relevant information for Members is set in Section 3 to this report appertaining to the Performance Management Task Group.
- 4.2 Adoption of the Corporate Plan and the Improvement Plan will follow the Council's existing Policy approach and direction of travel.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no particular implications arising from this report. The detail of activities set out in the Corporate Plan and/or the Improvement Plan will be subject of separate Financial appraisal and report to Members as required.
- 5.2 Concerns expressed with respect to the possible recreation of a National Performance Management Framework has the potential to have financial implications for the Council and this will be monitored.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

- 6.1 The legal implications of any Policy change or Project and/or activity are assessed as the matter is given approval and proceeds through implementation.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

- 7.1 There are no particular legal implications arising from this report.

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 Equalities Impact Assessments for Policy Changes, new Policies, new activities or alterations to service delivery are carried out as required and are assessed corporately to ensure both consistency and adequate attention to the necessary issues.

9.0 RISKS

9.1 **Probability** ↓

Very High A				
High B				
Significant C			52	
Low D				
Very Low E				
Almost Impossible F				
	IV Neg- ligible	III Marg- inal	II Critical	I Catast- rophic

→ **Impact**

Risk No.	Description
52	Lack of Corporate Resources to fulfil the Corporate Issues

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 There are no particular implications arising from this report.

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 The Corporate Plan and Improvement Plan have been subject of internal consultation, continuing scrutiny by this Committee and discussion with relevant Partners.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 All

Contact Officer: Lynn Aisbett, Chief Executive
Date: 7 April 2011

Appendices : A – Corporate Plan
B – Improvement Plan
C – Extract from Risk Register

Background Papers: Relevant Management Team minutes relating to the development of the Corporate Plan and the Improvement Plan

Reference : X: Committee\Cttee, Council & Sub Cttees\PFA\2010-11\200411