

Full Council on 23 February 2012

Item 12, Corporate Plan and Corporate Risk Register

**Committee:** Council

**Agenda Item**

**Date:** 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2012

**12**

**Title:** Corporate Plan 2012 and Corporate Risk Register

**Author:** Cllr Ketteridge, Leader of the Council

Item for decision

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### Summary

1. The draft Corporate Plan is presented for Council's approval, having been approved by Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2011. It is a radical departure from the format of previous corporate plans, being limited to just one page, rather than the 33 pages of the current document. It is however no less ambitious. There have been some minor changes since the draft was approved by Cabinet which reflect the passage of time, such as the passing of the Localism Act.

### Recommendations

2. That Council approve the plan

### Financial Implications

The Corporate Plan is an integral part of the budgeting and financial planning function of the Council.

### Background Papers

3. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

Localism Act 2011, Corporate Plan 2011-16

### Impact

- 4.

Communication/Consultation	The plan is derived from ongoing actions in the current corporate plan, which was itself the subject of extensive community engagement, and the Conservative Group manifesto for the 2011 local elections, which is a mandate for many of the actions. The Plan is informed by, and wholly compatible with, the budget consultation exercise reported elsewhere on this agenda.
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Community Safety	Any community safety implications resulting from actions or projects in the corporate plan will be identified in the service plans
Equalities	Any equalities implications resulting from actions or projects in the corporate plan will be identified in the service plans. The corporate plan can be made available in Braille, larger print or translated on request
Health and Safety	Any health and safety implications resulting from actions or projects in the corporate plan will be identified in the service plans
Human Rights/Legal Implications	There are no human rights implications Any legal implications resulting from actions or projects in the corporate plan will be identified in the service plans
Sustainability	Any sustainability implications resulting from actions or projects in the corporate plan will be identified in the service plans. Copies of the new-format corporate plan can easily be printed. The plan will be made available via the website.
Ward-specific impacts	Any ward-specific impacts resulting from actions or projects in the corporate plan will be identified in the service plans.
Workforce/Workplace	Any workforce implications resulting from actions or projects in the corporate plan will be identified in the service plans.

**Situation**

5. The draft corporate plan sets out six broad priorities for the council over the next 12 months and beyond. Each priority has 3 or 4 workstreams. The overall effect is to set out a clear programme for achievement and to keep the Council focused on its key business. Any new area of work that is not covered by the plan will not be started without the cessation or completion of one of the workstreams. Subject to its approval by Council it will be joined with the key messages from the Medium Term Financial Strategy to form a single concise document. The result will be an easy to follow document that will enhance the accountability of the Council. The priorities, which reflect the themes of finance, partnerships, people and environment, take into account the directions set in previous Corporate Plans, the Government's Localism Agenda and the 2011 Local Election Manifesto pledges of the Council's Administration.
6. The Council's priorities are to keep Council Tax low in real terms, to build partnerships that make a difference, to build more affordable homes, to recycle more, to protect and enhance our environment and to increase prosperity for all.

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7. The Government is introducing a radical new agenda based on localism and introducing the concept of the Big Society. Abolition of the regional tier of government, Local Area Agreements and the Audit Commission, amongst other things, mean that many of the target measures of previous plans are no longer appropriate. There is already much more focus on supporting communities and on enabling/commissioning rather than directly providing services. There is far less focus on national inspection and target regimes. This radical change is being introduced at a time of unprecedented reductions in public spending, with the reduction of the deficit remaining the coalition Government’s overarching priority. Although money is tight public expectations remain high. The Plan sets the framework for addressing these issues. The Council’s management and operational structure has been adjusted to meet the new challenges ahead, as set out in the Members’ Bulletin on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2011.
8. Pathways to implementation of the Plan will be set out in service plans, which will be monitored by the Corporate Management Team, and reported as necessary to the Performance and Audit Committee in the quarterly performance reports. This is in line with current practice.
9. A Corporate Risk Register accompanies the Plan. This Risk Register is already in place and being monitored quarterly by the Corporate Management Team and the Performance and Audit Committee. It identifies the key risks associated with delivering each of the Council’s corporate priorities and strategic risks which may affect service delivery across the authority.

**Risk Analysis**

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
<b>The corporate plan fails to be published and the council proceeds with its work without clear direction</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	Performance management framework in place. Service plans produced and targets set for performance indicators. Budget and MTFs prepared in conjunction with Plan. The corporate plan ties all this information together providing coherent direction for the council in the year ahead.

- 1 = Little or no risk or impact
- 2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.
- 3 = Significant risk or impact – action required
- 4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.