

Committee: Finance & Administration

Agenda Item

Date: 24 March 2011

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Title: Asset Management Plan 2011/12

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Item for decision

Summary

1. Asset management is an area of the Council's work that has not been well developed in recent years, attracting criticism from internal and external auditors. Although service-based work on individual assets has been reasonably well managed, this has not been within a corporate or strategic context.
2. The Asset Management Plan adopted in early 2010 was an aspirational document that was overtaken by issues arising from the 2009/10 external audit, specifically, errors within the Council's asset register and a value for money conclusion that was qualified solely due to inadequate asset management arrangements.
3. Prior to April 2010 the Council did not have a budget to secure the requisite corporate capacity and capability to take forward this work. A budget was allocated but arrangements made with partner organisations were abortive. However, from September 2010 a successful arrangement began with Braintree District Council's Asset Management Team for them to provide advice and consultancy support. It was agreed that the priorities for attention were to construct a reliable asset register (working from deeds and land registry information) and to produce a new, fit for purpose asset management plan.
4. The new Asset Management Plan is attached and includes a list of General Fund assets. Housing land assets are being catalogued and will be included in the next revision of this plan.
5. Colleagues at Braintree have confirmed, subject to agreeing terms, their willingness to provide ongoing support to assist the Council with implementing the Asset Management Plan, and with keeping asset records up to date.

Recommendations

6. The Committee is recommended to approve the Asset Management Plan for 2011/12 as attached to this report.

Financial Implications

7. There are no direct financial implications. The costs of implementing the Action Plan can be met from existing budgets, supplemented by Improvement East funding.

Background Papers

8. None.

Impact

Communication/Consultation	To inform development of the Plan all heads of service were consulted. SMB approved the Plan on 9 March, for recommendation to this Committee..
Community Safety	No specific implications.
Equalities	No specific implications
Health and Safety	No specific implications
Human Rights/Legal Implications	No specific implications
Sustainability	No specific implications
Ward-specific impacts	No specific implications
Workforce/Workplace	No specific implications

Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Actions in the Asset Management Plan are not implemented	2 (the support of Braintree DC colleagues will enable the Council to take these issues forward)	3 (the Council will be unable to demonstrate progress)	The actions have been built into workplans and will be monitored through the Council's performance management framework.

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.