

Adoption of a New Corporate Plan for 2015-19

Report of the Leader

Recommended:

That the draft Corporate Plan proposed for 2015-19 be approved

Recommendation to Council

SUMMARY:

- The Council's current Corporate Plan "Doing things differently" was approved in 2011 and adopted for a period of four years until April 2015. A new Corporate Plan has now been developed for the period of 2015—19. This is attached as an Annex.
- The draft Corporate Plan seeks to outline the Council's vision and priorities for the Borough for the next four years of the newly elected council. It will set our direction and provide a focus for our activities and services. As a result it will inform decision making and allocation of resources across the Council.
- The plan has been developed using a robust evidence base which takes into account the views of local people, statistical information and external influences, such as government policy.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Corporate Plan is a key corporate document and an important link in the council's overall strategic planning framework. It will set out the Council's medium term priorities and sit alongside other key documents such as the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Local Plan. Together as a set of documents they will help deliver the priorities.
- 1.2 The current Corporate Plan "Doing things differently" comes to an end in April 2015. As a result a new draft Corporate Plan has been developed and is proposed for the period 2015-19. This is attached as an Annex.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Plan has been developed using a robust evidence base which takes into account the views of local people, statistical information, external influences such as government policy.
- 2.2 During the summer of 2014, local councillors spoke to more than 1000 people right across the borough to ask them what issues were important to them and what the council should focus on for the next four years.

Councillors went out to towns and villages to meet people at local events and markets. Members of the public were also invited to take part in the survey via the council's website. We also used a range of creative techniques in order to engage with a broader range of people which included the "Great Test Valley Trout Hunt." Each of these important activities has enabled councillors to consider the issues that matter most to residents alongside the other evidence and statistical data that has been collected.

- 2.3 In developing the plan we have looked closely at the external influences on the borough, such as government policy, and we have also considered the major challenges and opportunities that the council will be dealing with over the coming four years. In particular, the challenges and opportunities that flow from a growth in population, economic activity and commercial and residential developments which we expect to see over the lifetime of the plan. This is set against the backdrop of the financial environment remaining a significant challenge.
- 2.4 The plan seeks to build on the strong foundations of the last one. Its focus is about investing our energy, skills and resources to achieving the best results for our residents and communities across the Borough. As a result, it has been called "Investing in Test Valley."

3 Consultations/Communications

- 3.1 As part of the development of the Corporate plan, wide ranging consultations took place with local people during the summer of 2014.

4 Options

- 4.1 The options facing the Cabinet are to recommend approval the plan, recommend amendments or to decide not to recommend. Final approval of the plan lies with Council so these will be recommendations to Council.

5 Option Appraisal

- 5.1 The plan has been developed by considering a range of options available. The options have been assessed taking into account the views of local people, statistical information about the borough and external influences, such as government policy.

6 Risk Management

- 6.1 A risk assessment has been completed in accordance with the Council's risk management process and the existing risk controls in place mean that no significant risks (Red or Amber) have been identified.

7 Resource Implications

- 7.1 The Corporate Plan will guide the Council's allocation of its resources over the next four years. The plan itself has no resourcing implications, at this stage.

8 Legal Implications

8.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

9 Equality Issues

9.1 An **EQIA screening** has been completed in accordance with the Council's EQIA methodology and no potential for unlawful discrimination and/or low level or minor negative impact have been identified, therefore a full EQIA has not been carried out.

10 Other Issues

10.1 The Corporate Plan seeks to guide all of the council's services in their work over the next four years and, as a result, covers all areas of the council's work.

10.2 Wards/Communities Affected – All

11 Conclusion

11.1 The Corporate Plan outlines the Council's vision and priorities for the Borough for the next four years of the newly elected council. It sets our direction and provides a focus for our activities and services. As a result it informs decision making and allocation of resources across the Council.

Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)

Confidentiality

It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.

No of Annexes:	1	File Ref:	
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Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	11 March 2015