



CABINET REPORT

Report Title

Corporate Plan 2009-12

AGENDA STATUS:

PUBLIC

Cabinet Meeting Date:	19 February 2009
Key Decision:	YES
Listed on Forward Plan:	YES
Within Policy:	YES
Policy Document:	NO
Directorate:	Chief Executive's Office
Accountable Cabinet Member:	Cllr Woods
Ward(s)	All

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To approve the Council's draft Corporate Plan for 2009-2012.
- 1.2 To agree a process for approving the detailed targets and format of the final plan prior to publication.

2 Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 2.1 Approve the attached draft corporate plan, subject to the addition of detailed targets arising from the service planning process;
- 2.2 Request a further report for its 18 March meeting, containing these detailed targets for approval;

- 2.3 Delegate to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader the authority to finalise the corporate plan and associated action plan in line with the budget decisions, service plans and any other consequent changes.

3 Background and Issues

- 3.1 Cabinet received an early draft of the 2009-2012 Corporate Plan at its meeting on 22 December 2008, and approved that this be used as a basis for consultation. This consultation period has now closed, and the latest draft version (attached) is presented for Cabinet endorsement. The plan will need to be updated and amended following Council decisions over the annual budget on the 26th February and the associated action plan included to reflect those decisions and align with service plans.
- 3.2 External consultation was focused on the existing corporate priorities of the Council, slightly reworded. These received clear support (see analysis of consultation attached to the revenue budget paper). However, internal discussion showed that the format and content of the draft was seen to be uninviting and repetitive. Cabinet had already noted that this was essentially to be a 'refresh' of the existing 2008-2011 Corporate Plan, and so the format of the draft presented today reflects that position.
- 3.3 The most significant changes are to make more explicit reference to Northampton's Sustainable Community Strategy and to the revised Local Area Agreement, both of which were signed off last year. An additional emphasis is proposed on action to address the problems arising for our residents and others from the current recession. Various corrections and updates have been made on matters of fact.
- 3.4 The plan presented today is not complete, in that the Action Plan, which will detail the targets and measures to deliver the agreed priority outcomes, cannot be completed until the next phase of service planning has been carried out and budget decisions concluded.
- 3.5 Other minor changes will include adding a cover, language accessibility page, page numbers and a dated header for each page. It is recommended that delegated authority to finalise the plan is allocated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader.

4 Options

- 4.1 **Approve the Corporate Plan**, subject to the further provisions set out in the report. This is recommended.
- 4.2 **Propose modifications to the draft.**
- 4.3 **Not approve the draft plan.** This would leave the Council without a Corporate Plan at the beginning of the new financial year. This would make service planning difficult and be unfavourably viewed by our auditors. It is therefore not recommended.

5 Implications (including financial implications)

5.1 Policy

- 5.1.1 Delivering the commitments in the Corporate Plan may require review of some policies. The need for such reviews will be reflected in service plans or the action plan attached to the Corporate Plan.

5.2 Resources and Risk

- 5.2.1 The plan needs to be considered alongside the budget, which can be seen as providing the resources to deliver the corporate plan within overall financial constraints.
- 5.2.2 The key risk with the Corporate Plan would be if the Council were unable to deliver its commitments because it underestimates the difficulties, fails to understand its environment, or lacks the necessary resources. In the Council's current financial position it will be particularly important not to promise activities and outcomes that NBC cannot afford to deliver. The action plan will be drawn up against approved resources and therefore will reflect what can be resourced on current financial projections. This also applies to service plans.

5.3 Legal

- 5.3.1 No obvious implications.

5.4 Equality

- 5.4.1 The plan is clear about the commitments that this Council has made to deliver an equitable service and to support a diverse community.

5.5 Crime and Disorder

- 5.5.1 The draft plan addresses safer communities as a priority, identifying priority outcomes in this area. Elsewhere in the plan there are outcomes which have a potential link to crime and disorder, which are being examined in the service planning process.

5.6 Consultees (Internal and External)

- 5.6.1 The 2008-11 Corporate Plan on which this is based was subject to extensive community and stakeholder consultation in 2007. The recent consultation has confirmed the continuing validity of the corporate priorities. There is an analysis attached to revenue budget paper which gives details of this analysis.

5.7 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes

- 5.7.1 The Corporate Plan identifies priority outcomes and sets a framework for delivering them.

Thomas Hall
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