



Name of Committee	Council
Directorate:	Citizen, Governance & Finance
Corporate Manager:	Ella Yeshin
Date:	26th June 2006

Report Title	Corporate Plan 2006-2007
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Key Decision	NO
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1. Recommendations

1. Receive the report with amendments made from comments received during the draft plan's consultation period, and any comments and recommendations to Council from Improvement Board and Cabinet.

2. Summary

To outline the process and decisions to date for the production of the Corporate Plan 2006 and for production of a further longer term Corporate Plan commencing this summer.

To date the Draft Corporate Plan for 2006-2007 has been to the following meetings. The timetable for its development was agreed at Cabinet on the 8th May 2006:

- Improvement Board: 13th April 2006
- Corporate Planning session at Highgate House: 20th April 2006
- Overview & Scrutiny Committee: 3rd May 2006
- Cabinet: 8th May 2006
- Priority and Budget Planning session at Highgate House: 11th & 12th May 2006
- Discussions at political group meetings: 19th May 2006
- Improvement Board 15th June 2006

3. Report Background

A Corporate Plan was approved for 2005–2006 that contained a new vision and a number of new priorities for the Council.

The need for an update of this Plan for this financial year was identified. Using the 2005-2006 Corporate Plan, Corporate Managers met to discuss and update the corporate priorities in preparation for the development of a new Corporate Plan. Consequently a number of draft papers that outlined draft priorities and a timetable to get the plan to completion and approval were put together for a meeting of the Improvement Board on the 13th April.

At the meeting of the Improvement Board on the 13th May there was a general discussion regarding the merit of producing a Corporate Plan at this point of the financial year. It was agreed that Councillors would consider this matter and discuss it further at the meeting scheduled to take place at Highgate House on the 20th April 2006. This meeting would also discuss the draft corporate priorities in further detail.

This first meeting at Highgate House was attended by most of the members of the Cabinet, Councillors from the Liberal Democrat and Labour groups, the Chief Executive, Director of Citizen, Governance & Finance and Corporate Managers.

Those at Highgate considered whether or not there was in fact a need to produce a Corporate Plan for the remainder of this financial year at all, but came to the conclusion that the vision and direction which such a plan would produce was necessary as a starting point for the BVPP which is a statutory requirement. However the two plans whilst sharing common elements need to look different in that the Corporate Plan is strategic and directive in nature and the BVPP is about how improvement in performance will be achieved.

The Highgate meeting also considered those service areas that might need to be provided in a different way given the Council's priorities. A list of service areas, titled "Best Value Issues" had been put together by Corporate Managers and was discussed at the workshop so that Councillors could further consider these against their updated priorities.

At the conclusion of the Highgate House meeting the following approach was agreed:

- The Council's Corporate Plan would be developed in two parts:
 - I. A Corporate Plan for 2006 – 2007 would be developed for approval at Full Council at the end of June 2006. This Corporate Plan would be a compendium of this year's work under the agreed priorities and would focus on improving services. It was understood that the plan would not be founded on public consultation but would act as a precursor to the production of a full and proper Corporate Plan for 2007-2010.
 - II. A Corporate Plan for 2007 – 2010 would be developed and would include thorough public consultation, and the development of a new vision for the town produced in line with the corporate planning framework, and allowing the various processes such as consultation, budget planning etc to occur in the correct order at the correct time of the year.

- Further work would be undertaken on the potential non-priority issues for the priority and budget planning meeting scheduled for the 11th & 12th of May at Highgate House.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the draft Plan on the 3rd of May and made recommendations to Cabinet about how they could be involved in any future development of the Corporate Plan and also where they could add value to the Corporate Planning Framework. They expressed concerns around the Plan being on the private part of the agenda given its very public purpose.

Cabinet met on the 8th of May and considered the draft Plan and agreed the timetable and arrangements for its further development.

On the 11th and 12th May the same delegates met again at Highgate House to agree the Council's priorities and non-priorities in respect of producing a balanced budget for 2007-2008.

Following all the above activities a new draft Plan was circulated for comment. An amended version is attached. In addition but highlighted separately in section 4 are a number of more far reaching comments.

4. Options and Evaluation of Options

The following comments have been received:

- a. The milestones within the action plan should be removed thereby reflecting the Plans more strategic nature. The milestones would continue to exist but would be found within the Recovery Plan and individual service plans.
- b. The targets set to raise the performance of the bottom quartile Best Value Performance Indicators should be contained in the Corporate Plan but should also sign post readers to the Best Value Performance Plan where they are more extensively reviewed and explained.
- c. The milestones within the Recovery Plan and service plans need to be updated whether or not they remain within the Corporate Plan.

5. Resource Implications (including Financial Implications)

There are currently no financial implications, however further reports will highlight the costs of public consultation associated with the production of the longer term Corporate Plan.

6. Risk and Opportunity Issues

Failure to develop an appropriate Corporate Plan within the timescales will lead to a negative impact on the CPA score and local people will be unaware of how the Council is planning to better meet their needs in the future.

If the objectives within the Corporate Plan are written too broadly this could lead to lack of focus on what should and should not be prioritised and result in investment of resources in the wrong place and ultimately an inability to balance the budget.

7. Consultees (Internal and External)

Internal	Cabinet, Improvement Board, Overview & Scrutiny, Group meetings, Chief Executive, Directors, Corporate Managers
External	Not applicable on this occasion

8. Compliance Issues

A: How Proposals Deliver Priority Outcomes

Recovery Plan
The production of a Corporate Plan for 2005-2006 addresses the comments made in the original CPA report and raised in the subsequent CPA "Direction of Travel" published in March 2006
Corporate Plan
Not applicable

B: Other Implications

Other Strategies
Provides direction to policy and strategy development.
Finance Comments
Legal Comments

9. Background Papers

Title	Description	Source
None		

This is a decision of:

Full Council

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Author	Simone Wade, Operational Manager – Recovery, Policy & Governance	31 st May 2006	8569
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