

DECISION-MAKER:	COUNCIL		
SUBJECT:	CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2009/10		
DATE OF DECISION:	13 MAY 2009		
REPORT OF:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL		
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None.

SUMMARY

The Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP) is a cross cutting document which covers all aspects of the Council's activities to demonstrate the organisation's commitment to securing value for money and service improvement for the benefit of local residents. It is also a Policy Framework document which must be approved by Full Council. Copies of the draft 2009/10 plan are available in Members' Rooms and from the report author.

The draft 2009/10 Corporate Improvement Plan has been structured on a Portfolio basis to reflect the accountability and leadership role of Cabinet Members in securing the delivery of the Council's overall policy objectives and service improvement ambitions for the benefit of local residents and businesses within the city. The draft plan therefore contains a number of actions to progress the Council's six policy priorities and other statutory commitments, together with a number of performance measures to demonstrate to key stakeholders that these are all being delivered.

The published version of this year's CIP will include final 2008/09 performance and financial data which will be subject to external audit to help determine the Council's 2009 Organisational Assessment as a key part of the new Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) process. Validated 2008/9 performance and financial outturn data is not yet available and the report therefore seeks delegated authority for the Chief Executive to amend the draft Plan as necessary to include this data, as well as any appropriate feedback from members and stakeholders prior to its publication.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) To approve the draft 2009/10 Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP).
- (ii) To delegate authority to the Chief Executive to amend the draft CIP following consultation with the Leader of the Council to incorporate any changes made at the meeting, appropriate feedback from stakeholders, and the finalisation of the 2008/09 financial and performance data prior to the publication of the plan in June.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Council's constitution requires the draft 2009/10 Corporate Improvement Plan to be submitted by the Executive to Full Council for approval. Validated

performance and financial data for 2008/09 will not be available until the end of May. Delegated authority is therefore being sought to enable officers to amend the draft plan to incorporate this information and to reflect any appropriate stakeholder comments or changes that are made at the Full Council meeting.

CONSULTATION

2. The 2009/10 Corporate Improvement Plan will help to secure the delivery of the Council's six policy priorities, the 2009/10 budget, the approved Medium Term Service and Financial Plan, the City of Southampton Strategy as well as other key partnership plans which Members, partners and stakeholders have all been consulted upon. The links between the Council's six policy priorities, the Medium Term Service and Financial Plan and other key strategies are highlighted within the draft document.
3. The plan also reflects the feedback received from external audits over the past twelve months, as well as the results of appropriate key customer surveys and staff comments.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

4. This document forms part of the Council's approved Policy Framework. The option of not producing the Plan was therefore considered but rejected on the grounds that all Plans which are included within the Policy Framework need to be approved by Full Council.

DETAIL

5. The draft Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP) consolidates the key improvement areas that relate to the council's activities in 2009/10 and subsequent years set out in statutory and other plans approved by Full Council such as the Medium Term Service and Financial Plan, Children's and Young People's Plan and the Safe City Partnership Plan.
6. The CIP therefore provides an integrated framework for the delivery of key service improvement priorities across the whole Council to ensure that appropriate, value for money services are being delivered to local residents and businesses within the city in line with members' priorities. The content of the plan also provides the basis for the Council's quarterly performance management arrangements by ensuring that these planned improvements are delivered within agreed timescales.
7. In February 2009 following a period of extensive consultation with stakeholders, Full Council approved the 2009/10 budget as well as six key policy priorities. The draft Corporate Improvement Plan therefore contains a number of planned actions which will progress the following agreed priorities:-
 - Providing good value, high quality services
 - Getting the city working
 - Investing in education and training
 - Keeping people safe
 - Keeping the city clean and green
 - Looking after people

8. The Council's current Medium Term Service and Financial Plan covers the period 2007/8 to 2009/10 and should therefore be updated during the current financial year to maintain a forward looking perspective. However, the draft 2009/10 Corporate Improvement Plan brings together the performance and financial data for each Portfolio and outlines the steps required to progress key transformational projects to improve service delivery over the medium term.
9. Since the draft 2009/10 Corporate Improvement Plan therefore includes performance improvement targets covering a three year period as well as a financial forecast it is proposed that the Corporate Improvement Plan is developed through the council's usual policy framework process during 2009/10 to become the key corporate medium term planning document for the Council, which will be subject to review each May.
10. The final version of the 2009/10 Corporate Improvement Plan will set out the actual performance of the Council against the targets which were approved by Full Council last year. This information will not be fully available until the end of May and delegation is therefore being sought to enable officers to update the draft plan as this information is received.
11. Where appropriate the Plan will also include proposals to secure improvements in key under performing or lower quartile services and to demonstrate value for money with reference to appropriate benchmarking information, comparative data and the feedback received from customers and staff.
12. Before the publication of the 2009/10 Corporate Improvement Plan the content of the current draft will be refined to ensure that all of the proposed key "measures of success" for the year reflect the final 2008/09 performance data as well as any appropriate feedback from members and other stakeholders or changes made at the Council meeting.
13. Prior to its publication the plan will also undergo detailed proof reading and editorial checks and be graphically designed to improve its accessibility and to ensure that its design is consistent with other policy framework documents. Copies of the Plan will also be made available on the Council's website.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital

14. There are no additional capital implications arising from the proposals outlined in this report. The overall financial context, approved capital programme and potential resource implications of key transformational projects are set out in the draft plan.

Revenue

15. There are no additional revenue implications arising from the approval of the report's recommendations. The targets and commitments contained within the Plan will be met from the resources allocated to Portfolios through the 2009-10 budget setting process. The approved revenue budgets for each Portfolio are included within the relevant sections of the draft Plan.

16. New opportunities or requirements may arise that may not be reflected within the draft Corporate Improvement Plan. The content of the plan will therefore be subject to review to ensure that it continues to reflect the Council's improvement priorities and approved budget for 2009/10. For example if Full Council decides to change any aspect of the budget proposals that impact on this plan then officers will need to amend the relevant sections of the document. This position applies to in-year as well as future capital programme considerations and resource decisions.

Property

17. None as a consequence of the recommendations contained within this report.

Other

18. None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

19. The statutory powers for producing this plan can be found in the Local Government Acts 1972, 1999 and 2000. The Council has a statutory duty to secure continuous improvement and value for money in all of its activities. The Corporate Improvement Plan demonstrates that the council has an integrated and planned approach to securing this objective.

Other Legal Implications:

20. The annual Corporate Improvement Plan forms part of the council's Policy Framework, as set out in Article 4 of the Council's Constitution. The Executive is, for almost all functions, responsible for implementing the policies and spending the budget in accordance with the Policy Framework and Budget. Each of the proposed new actions in this plan will therefore be subject to the Council's normal decision making processes, including detailed legal and financial assessments as necessary.
21. Generally, in respect of the Policy Framework, the responsibility for agreeing the Budget and Policy Framework lies with the Council, and decisions by the Executive, a committee of the Executive, an individual Member of the Executive, Officer, or joint arrangements discharging Executive functions must be in line with it.
22. In the case of the Corporate Improvement Plan each of the proposed actions will be subject to the Council's normal decision making processes and in some cases bidding for external funding may be required (which may fail or be only partially successful). In each of these cases therefore, what is proposed is subject to variation with any in year amendments being highlighted through the Council's quarterly performance monitoring arrangements, which includes the presentation of information highlighting any key variances to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

23. The 2009/10 Corporate Improvement Plan is a policy framework document which must be approved by Full Council and be consistent with other Policy Framework Plans and the approved budget for the year.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	None

Documents In Members’ Rooms

1.	Draft 2009/10 Corporate Improvement Plan.

Background Documents

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None

Background documents available for inspection at: Not applicable

FORWARD PLAN No: N/A **KEY DECISION?** No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	
None arising from the approval of the draft plan. However, the implementation of the 2008/9 Corporate Improvement Plan will affect all wards and communities in the city.	