

DECISION-MAKER:	COUNCIL		
SUBJECT:	CORPORATE PLAN 2010/11		
DATE OF DECISION:	14 JULY 2010		
REPORT OF:	THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL		
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
None.			

SUMMARY

The Corporate Plan forms part of the Council’s Policy Framework and must therefore be approved by Full Council. It is a cross cutting document which covers all areas of the Council’s activities. The plan demonstrates the organisation’s commitment to securing the statutory duty of best value in all aspects of service delivery. It also reflects the leadership role of the Executive in delivering the Council’s policy objectives, value for money and service improvement for the benefit of residents and businesses in the city. Copies of the draft 2010/11 plan are available in Members’ Rooms and from the report author.

The draft 2010/11 Corporate Plan reflects local priorities, as well as known national policy and budgetary changes which will have a significant impact on the city. The Council remains committed to delivering its planned medium term aspirations and key projects. However progress over the next few years will be partially dependent on the availability of national and local resources. Given the Government’s focus on reducing the public sector budget deficit and the forthcoming national Comprehensive Spending Review in the Autumn, the report seeks delegated authority to enable the Plan to be amended as necessary to ensure that it aligns with the Council’s approved 2010/11 operating budget as well as any new national, regional or local developments that may arise during the year.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) To note the executive’s response to the recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee as set out in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (ii) To approve the draft 2010/11 Corporate Plan; and
- (iii) To delegate authority to the Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, to incorporate any changes made at the meeting and to amend the plan as necessary from time to time to ensure that it aligns with any new budgetary or policy developments which will impact on the council’s activities in 2010/11.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Council’s constitution requires the 2010/11 Corporate Plan to be submitted by the Executive to Full Council for approval, after a draft has been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee. Although the content of the draft plan has been cross checked against the proposals set out in the

July 2010 operating budget and the national Coalition Agreement further details may emerge which may require amendments to be made to the document. Delegated authority is therefore being sought to enable the plan to be amended to reflect any changes arising from the Council meeting as well as new national policy or budgetary changes which would have a significant impact on the city by the end of the financial year.

CONSULTATION

2. The draft Corporate Plan reflects the Council's six approved priorities and the 2010/11 budget approved by Full Council in February, which were both formulated following extensive consultation with local residents and stakeholders. The plan also incorporates key service improvements contained within directorate and divisional Business Plans, which have been developed in conjunction with staff.
3. On the 17th June a draft of the 2010/11 Corporate Plan was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee. The linkages between the draft Corporate Plan and the Government's emerging policy and budget priorities were explored at the meeting. A number of issues were raised by scrutiny members concerning the number of residents participating in feedback surveys, the longevity of the National Indicator Set, the optimum time for the submission of this plan, the scope for making in year adjustments, the importance of highway improvements in the city and the need to ensure (via a proposed priority traffic light system) that the content of the final version of the plan reflects the Council's primary objectives rather than policy aspirations, which may not be forthcoming as a result of future reductions in public sector expenditure.
4. The majority of these issues have been addressed in the latest draft of the Corporate Plan and the Executive's response to the 3 recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee can be found in Appendix 1.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5. None, since the Corporate Plan is a Policy Framework document.

DETAIL

6. The Corporate Plan sets out the Council's approach to securing overall business efficiencies, value for money and service improvements for the benefit of local residents. The commitments set out in the plan reflect the Council's agreed priorities and the operating budget for the year, the City of Southampton Strategy as well as any council led actions contained within approved partnership plans. The published version of the Corporate Plan will also include final 2009/10 performance and financial information.
7. In previous years the document has been presented to Full Council in May and included planned improvement measures as well as financial forecasts for the current and next two financial years. However, given the formation of a new Coalition government the submission of this year's plan to Council has been delayed to enable the document to reflect any major policy and budget changes.
8. The original intention in drafting this year's Corporate Plan was to ensure that it

contained a 3 year medium term financial and policy perspective. However, given the Government's focus on reducing the public sector budget deficit and the forthcoming national Comprehensive Spending Review in the Autumn, it will not now be possible to conclude this work until later in the year for inclusion in next year's Corporate Plan.

9. The Council remains fully committed to securing its planned medium term aspirations and major projects. However in practice their successful delivery will be partially dependent on the availability of national and local resources over the medium term. In the Autumn there will be a new national Comprehensive Spending Review, which will determine departmental public expenditure levels for the next 3 years against a backdrop of reducing the current level of public sector debt.
10. Whilst a revised high level financial forecast has therefore been devised to respond to the Government's June Interim Budget and 2010/11 grant announcements a new medium term financial strategy has not been included in the 2010/11 Corporate Plan. This will be developed later in the year as the likely levels of future local government settlements become clearer.
11. In practice the 2010/11 Corporate Plan is much shorter than previous year's documents to ensure that it focuses only on the key improvement areas and major projects to be delivered by the Council over the twelve months within known resource constraints. In addition the document has been split into two parts. The first part provides a summary of the key challenges facing the Council over the medium term as well as the proposed actions that will be taken by the executive in 2010/11 to address them.
12. The second part of the document is a technical appendix, which sets out indicative three year results for the key performance measures and national indicators that are currently in place, to enable the Council to demonstrate its commitment to securing "continuous improvement" within existing resource levels to fulfil its statutory Best Value obligations.
13. Where appropriate the Plan includes a number of service improvement and efficiency proposals to ensure that value for money is secured for local residents. The plan also includes customer feedback information as well as appropriate benchmarking information and comparative data.
14. The Corporate Plan provides an integrated framework for the delivery of services across the Council to ensure that they provide value for money and are being delivered to local residents and businesses in the city in line with members' priorities. The content of the plan therefore provides the basis for the Council's quarterly corporate performance management arrangements by ensuring that agreed actions by members are delivered within required timescales and to expected standards.
15. Before the publication of the final version of the Corporate Plan its content will be refined as necessary to ensure that it reflects any new budget announcements that could have a significant impact locally. In addition following the discussion at the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee delegated authority is sought to enable officers to amend the plan as necessary, following consultation with the Leader of the Council to reflect any new major budgetary or policy changes that take before the end of the financial

year.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital

16. There are no additional capital implications arising from the proposals outlined in this report.

Revenue

17. 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 2010/11 budget setting process. The approved revenue budgets for each Portfolio are included in the appropriate sections of the draft Corporate Plan.

Property

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

Other

19. None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

20. 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 best value. The production of the Corporate Plan demonstrates that the council has an integrated and planned approach to this requirement.

Other Legal Implications:

21. The annual Corporate 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 actions in this plan will be subject to the Council's normal decision making processes, including detailed legal and financial assessments as necessary.
22. For some of the proposed actions included in the Corporate Plan bidding for external funding or the identification of new income sources may be required in due course to enable them to progressed, which may fail or be only partially successful. What is proposed in the Corporate Plan is therefore subject to in year variation. Delegated authority is therefore being sought to ensure that the plan remains in alignment with any key budgetary or policy changes during the course of the year. Any in year amendments will be highlighted through the Council's quarterly performance monitoring arrangements, which includes the presentation of information highlighting key variances to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

23. The Corporate Plan is a policy framework document which must be approved by Full Council and be consistent with other Policy Framework documents as

well as the Council's approved operating budget for the year.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	The Executive's Response to the Recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
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Documents In Members' Rooms

	Draft Corporate Plan 2010-13 (Part 1) & Technical Appendix (Part 2)
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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)
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	None.	
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FORWARD PLAN No: N/A

KEY DECISION Yes

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED: All wards and communities in Southampton will be affected by the implementation of the proposals set out in the Corporate Plan

THE EXECUTIVE'S RESPONSE TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE'S COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN

DRAFT SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS	EXECUTIVE'S RESPONSE
<p>In light of the financial situation that the plan should be altered to show the Administration's priorities in a "traffic light" system in order for it to be clear which would take precedence. This would then be updated and progress reported in 6 months time reflecting the Comprehensive Spending Review.</p>	<p>Rejected. The proposed actions set out in the Corporate Plan reflect the Executive's priorities which will be progressed by the end of March 2011 unless there is a change in resources associated with a particular proposal or a change in legislation / regulations which will prevent them from being delivered. It is proposed that any significant in year variations of this kind should be dealt with through delegated powers to the Chief Executive following consultation with the Leader of the Council. Any in year amendments will be highlighted through the Council's quarterly performance monitoring arrangements, which includes the presentation of information highlighting key variances to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee. The proposed introduction of a "traffic light" prioritisation system would largely duplicate this process and is therefore seen as unnecessary. In addition, whilst the results of the CSR should be known in 6 months time, in practice they are unlikely to have a significant impact until 2011/12. Any required changes would therefore be more appropriately reflected in next year's Corporate Plan.</p>
<p>The introduction from the Leader would include a reference about the highways improvements; and</p>	<p>Agreed. The Environment, Transport and Infrastructure section of the Leader's foreword on page 3 now includes a reference to "highway" as well as "public transport" improvements.</p>
<p>That the statistics from the resident's feedback would include the figure of the number of people that had responded</p>	<p>Agreed. The number of residents' responding to the Place Survey questionnaire has been included within the Resident Feedback section on page 6 of the document.</p>