

Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 1 July 2014



Portfolio: Leader (Councillor C. Whitbread)

Subject: Cabinet Priorities and Corporate Plan Key Objectives 2014/15

Responsible Officer: S. Tautz (01992 564180)

Democratic Services Officer: A. Hendry (01992 564246)

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Committee receives details of the priorities of the Cabinet and the key objectives for 2014/15, from the Leader of the Council.

Executive Summary:

1. The Corporate Plan is the Council's key strategic planning document, setting out its priorities over the four-year period from 2011/12 to the end of 2014/15, with strategic themes reflecting those of the Community Strategy for the district. Updates to the Corporate Plan are published annually, to reflect the key objectives adopted for each year of the plan period and progress against the achievement of objectives for previous years.
2. The annual identification of key objectives provides an opportunity for the Council to focus attention on how areas for improvement will be addressed, opportunities exploited and better outcomes delivered over the coming year. The key objectives are intended to provide a clear statement of the Council's overall priorities for each year, and are supported by a range of actions and deliverables designed to achieve specific outcomes. Progress in relation to individual actions and deliverables is reviewed on a quarterly and outturn basis.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

3. The annual adoption of key objectives and priorities supports the delivery of the Council's medium-term aims over the four-year period of the Corporate Plan, and provides an opportunity to focus attention on the achievement of specific outcomes and areas for improvement.

Other Options for Action:

4. The Council could have decided not to adopt key objectives for 2014/15, although this might have meant that opportunities for improvement were lost.

Report:

5. The Corporate Plan for 2011/12 to 2014/15 includes an annual supplement reflecting the Council's key objectives for each of the four years to the end of 2014/15.

6. The key objectives are intended to address national and local challenges and to provide a clear statement of the Council's overall priorities for each year. The key objectives identify specific deliverables and outcomes to be achieved through projects and initiatives, and measurable timescales to demonstrate progress. Performance against the individual deliverables and actions is reviewed by the Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on a quarterly basis.
7. In accordance with the decisions of the Council arising from the review of the authority's overview and scrutiny arrangements undertaken in 2013/14, the Leader of the Council will present the priorities of the Cabinet (Appendix 1) and the key objectives (Appendix 2) for the year ahead (compiled before the Annual Council meeting and the enlargement of the Cabinet) to this first meeting of the Committee in the municipal year.

Resource Implications:

Resource requirements for actions to achieve specific key objectives for 2014/15 will have been identified by the responsible service director/chief officer and reflected in the budget for the year.

Legal and Governance Implications:

There are no legal or governance implications arising from the recommendations of this report. Relevant implications arising from actions to achieve specific key objectives for 2014/15 will have been identified by the responsible service director/chief officer.

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications:

There are no implications arising from the recommendations of this report in respect of the Council's commitment to the Climate Local Agreement, the corporate Safer, Cleaner, Greener initiative, or any crime and disorder issues within the district. Relevant implications arising from actions to achieve specific key objectives for 2014/15 will have been identified by the responsible service director/chief officer.

Consultation Undertaken:

The key objectives for 2014/15 were adopted by the Cabinet in April 2014.

Background Papers:

Corporate Plan 2011-2015.

Impact Assessments:

Risk Management

A decision not to adopt key objectives for 2014/15 could have meant that opportunities for improvement were lost. Relevant risk management issues arising from actions to achieve specific key objectives for 2014/15 will have been identified by the responsible service director/chief officer.

Equality:

There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations of this report. Relevant implications arising from actions to achieve specific key objectives for 2014/15 will have been identified by the responsible service director/chief officer.