

# ***Report to the Council***

**Subject: Corporate Plan 2015-20**

**Committee: Cabinet**

**Date: 21 April 2015**

**Portfolio Holder: Leader - Councillor C Whitbread**

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## **Recommendation:**

**(1) That the proposed Corporate Plan 2015-20 and Key Action Plan for 2015/16, as attached to this report, be adopted.**

## **Report:**

1. The Corporate Plan is the Council's highest level strategic document and sets the strategic direction for the authority for the lifetime of the plan. It focuses on a number of key areas over the lifetime of the Plan. Therefore, as a strategic document, the Corporate Plan does not contain specific information on the wide range of services that the authority provides, or how it delivers statutory duties or enforces legislation.

2. The Corporate Plan is an important element in the Council's performance management framework and corporate business planning processes. It provides a framework for the development of detailed annual directorate business plans and other detailed service plans which directly contributes to the achievement of the Council's aims and objectives. The Corporate Plan also provides the policy foundation for the authority's Medium-Term Financial Strategy and assists in the provision of quality services.

### Corporate Plan 2015-20

3. The current Corporate Plan expires on 31 March 2015 and a new Corporate Plan has been developed for the period 2015/16 to 2019/20. The draft new Corporate Plan is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

4. The new Plan includes many of the sections found in the organisation's previous Council Plans including the Key Objectives pertinent to the life of the Plan. However, the most significant change to the structure of the Plan is the exclusion of the Key Cabinet Objectives Action Plan. This Action Plan, because it changes annually and will be published on the Council's website, will instead be accessible from the Corporate Plan via a hyperlink. This will enable the Action Plan to be updated more easily without affecting the structure of the Corporate Plan. The corporate aims and key objectives are a central element of a Corporate Plan and as such the new Corporate Plan has been developed around them.

5. Like the existing Corporate Plan, and to minimise expenditure associated with the production of the new Plan, it will be primarily available via the Council's website. However, should it be required in other formats then assistance will be provided to facilitate access to the Plan.

### Corporate Aims and Key Objectives

6. The strategic themes identified by Cabinet members and the Council's Management Board for the next five years, have been refined into a set of three Corporate Aims.

Additionally a new set of more specific Key Objectives to support the Aims have been developed. The Plan and proposed aims, together with an outline of the key objectives, have been communicated to all staff and feedback invited.

7. The proposed Corporate Aims and Key Objectives are set out within the Corporate Plan at pages 6-9, attached at Appendix 1, and also in the Key Action Plan for 2015/16 at Appendix 2 to this report.

### Key Action Plans

8. Key Action Plans will continue to be set annually. Every year during the lifetime of the Key Objectives, the Key Action Plan will be updated and agreed between January and April, with actions to be undertaken over the following year to work towards the achievement of the Key Objectives. New actions will reflect the progress already achieved against the Objective and emerging priorities.

9. The Action Plans will be closely monitored as at present, and performance will continue to be reported quarterly to the Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It should be noted that the target dates currently shown against individual actions on the attached Action Plan could be subject to change between consideration by Members and prior to publication.

### Conclusion

10. The new Corporate Plan 2015-20 and the Key Action Plan for 2015/16 were considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in February 2015, and then agreed by the Cabinet in March 2015. They now require formal adoption by the Council.

11. We recommend as set out at the commencement of this report.