

# **Report to the Cabinet**

**Report reference: C-075-2008/09.**

**Date of meeting: 15 December 2008.**



**Epping Forest  
District Council**

---

**Portfolio: Finance and Performance Management.**

**Subject: Council Plan 2006-2010 and Cabinet Priority Objectives 2008/09 – Progress Report.**

**Responsible Officer: Steve Tautz (01992 564180).**

**Democratic Services Officer: Gary Woodhall (01992 564470).**

---

## **Recommendations/Decisions Required:**

**(1) That the Cabinet consider:**

**(a) performance against objectives, targets and actions contained in the Council Plan for 2006 to 2010, for the year to 31 March 2008; and**

**(b) performance for the first eight months of 2008/09, in relation to the key priority objectives adopted for the year.**

## **Executive Summary:**

The Council Plan for 2006 to 2010 is the authority's key strategic planning document, setting out service delivery priorities over a four year period, with strategic themes matching those set out in the Community Strategy for the District.

At its meeting on 9 June 2008, the Cabinet adopted a range of specific priority objectives for 2008/09, for inclusion in the Best Value Performance Plan for 2008/09.

Current progress against the Council's key objectives is likely to be an inspection theme in the Direction of Travel assessment for 2008, and the future methodology for the Comprehensive Area Assessment process.

## **Reasons for Proposed Decision:**

It is important that relevant performance management processes are in place to review and monitor performance against the Council's key objectives, targets and actions, to ensure the continued achievability and relevance of priorities, and to identify proposals for appropriate corrective action in areas of under performance.

## **Other Options for Action:**

No other options are available in this respect. Failure to monitor and review performance against key objectives, targets and actions and to take corrective action where necessary, could have negative implications for judgements made about the authority in the Direction of Travel and similar corporate assessment processes such as Comprehensive Area Assessment, and might mean that opportunities for improvement are lost.

## **Report:**

1. The Council Plan for 2006 to 2010 sets out the authority's key service delivery priorities over a four-year period, with strategic themes matching those of the Community

Strategy for the district. Progress against the key priorities and objectives contained in the Council Plan is reviewed on an annual basis by the Cabinet and the Finance and Performance Management Scrutiny Panel. A copy of the report considered by the Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 19 August 2008, detailing progress for the first two years of the Council Plan, is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

2. The Council's final Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) was published on 30 June 2008. The annual BVPP includes details of the priority objectives adopted by the Cabinet for the year ahead, and members will be aware that service directors fully contribute to the development of the BVPP, which also contains a range of key service objectives for the year. The Cabinet's priority objectives for 2008/09 were adopted at its meeting on 9 June 2008, and subsequently included in the BVPP for 2008/09.

3. Current progress against the Council's key objectives is likely to be an inspection theme in the Direction of Travel (DoT) assessment for 2008. DoT is an annual assessment of the progress the Council is making towards achieving improvement in the services it delivers to the public, and is intended to identify and reflect efforts to put in place plans to secure improvement. It is therefore important to ensure that relevant performance management processes are in place to review and monitor performance against the key objectives, and to agree proposals for corrective action in areas of current under performance.

4. A schedule detailing current performance against the Cabinet's key priority objectives for 2008/09 is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

5. The Cabinet is requested to consider progress against the key priority objectives within the Council Plan 2006-2010 and adopted specifically for 2008/09.

#### **Resource Implications:**

Resource requirements for any proposals for corrective action in respect of areas of current under-performance set out in this report will need to be identified.

#### **Legal and Governance Implications:**

There are no legal implications or Human Rights Act issues arising from the recommendations in this report, which ensure that the Council monitors progress and reports against the achievement of its corporate priorities.

#### **Safer, Cleaner and Greener Implications:**

There are no implications arising from the recommendations in this report for the Council's commitment to the Nottingham Declaration for climate change, the corporate Safer, Cleaner and Greener initiative, or any Crime and Disorder issues within the district.

#### **Consultation Undertaken:**

Current performance against the objectives and actions contained in the Council Plan 2006-2010 and the Cabinet's key priority objectives for 2008/09 have been reported by each appropriate Service Director.

#### **Background Papers:**

None.

#### **Impact Assessments:**

There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations in this report. In terms of risk management, a poor Direction of Travel or similar assessment report could trigger

intervention or further inspection, as well as having a negative effect on the Council's reputation.