

## **Report to the Cabinet**

**Report reference: C-088-2008/09.**  
**Date of meeting: 2 February 2009.**



**Portfolio: Finance and Performance Management.**

**Subject: Key Priority Objectives 2009/10.**

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

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

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### **Recommendations:**

**That the Cabinet agree the Council's key priority objectives for 2009/10.**

### **Executive Summary:**

The Local Government Act 1999 and the Best Value regime has previously required all local authorities to publish an annual Best Value Performance Plan. Although the statutory requirement to publish a BVPP has been removed from 2009/10, this process has traditionally provided an opportunity for the Council to articulate its key priority objectives for the coming year.

### **Reasons for Proposed Decision:**

The annual identification of key priority objectives provides an opportunity for the Council to focus specific attention on how existing weaknesses will be addressed, opportunities exploited and better outcomes delivered for local people.

### **Other Options for Action:**

The Council could decide not to set key priority objectives for 2009/10, although this might mean that opportunities for improvement were lost.

### **Report:**

1. The Corporate Executive Forum (CEF) has recently agreed proposals for the alignment of the Council's business, budget, and workforce planning and development processes into a clear framework to enable the authority to focus on key priorities, improve performance and the way that performance is managed, and to improve communication and consultation on key priorities. As part of this process, it is intended that the Council's key priority objectives for the year ahead will in future be agreed by the Cabinet each February, rather than in June as has been the case previously. The authority's Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) will also in future be determined at the end of the preceding year rather than the beginning of each new year as has traditionally been the case, and will be linked to provisional targets so that the new KPIs can be determined early in each new municipal year.

2. For 2009/10, CEF and the Leader of the Council has indicated that at least two specific priorities be identified for each portfolio (in addition to appropriate 'corporate' priorities), based on key areas highlighted in the draft budget for 2009/10, and that particular regard should be had to the identification of priorities relevant to the current economic climate. Service directors have therefore been meeting with individual Portfolio Holders over the last few weeks, in order to determine the detail of these key member objectives. Details

of the proposed key priority objectives will be circulated separately for consideration at the Cabinet meeting.

3. Although the key priority objectives identified by individual Portfolio Holders and adopted by the Cabinet will no longer be published within a BVPP, they will be incorporated within respective directorate business plans for the year. Formal performance reports against the key priority objectives will be made to the Cabinet after six months and at year-end.

4. The Cabinet is requested to consider the Council's draft key priority objectives for 2009/10.

**Resource Implications:**

The budget and human resource implications of the proposed key priority objectives for 2009/10 will have been addressed by the relevant service director.

**Legal and Governance Implications:**

The legal implications and Human Rights Act issues arising from the proposed key priority objectives for 2009/10 will have been addressed by the relevant service director.

**Safer, Cleaner and Greener Implications:**

The implications arising from the proposed key priority objectives for 2009/10 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, will have been addressed by the relevant service director.

**Consultation Undertaken:**

The proposed key priority objectives for 2009/10 have been subject to discussion with individual Portfolio Holders and have been agreed by the Corporate Executive Forum.

**Background Papers:**

None.

**Impact Assessments:**

The risk management and equality and diversity implications arising from the proposed key priority objectives for 2009/10 will have been addressed by the relevant service director.