

## **Report to the Cabinet**

**Report reference: C-010-2010/11.**

**Date of meeting: 19 July 2010.**



**Epping Forest  
District Council**

**Portfolio: Performance Management.**

**Subject: Council Plan 2006-2010 and Key Priority Objectives 2009/10 – Outturn.**

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

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

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### **Recommendations/Decisions Required:**

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

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

**(b) performance for 2009/10, in relation to the Council's key priority objectives for the year.**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE TWO APPENDICES REFERRED TO IN THE REPORT HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED AS A SEPARATE SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA. ANY MEMBER WISHING A COPY TO BE PROVIDED FOR THEM SHOULD CONTACT THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER LISTED ABOVE PRIOR TO THE MEETING.**

### **Executive Summary:**

The Council Plan for 2006/07 to 2009/10 was the authority's key strategic planning document, setting out service delivery priorities over the four-year period, with strategic themes matching those set out in the Community Strategy for the district. Performance against the objectives and actions contained in the Council Plan is reviewed annually at year-end.

The Local Government Act 1999 and the Best Value regime previously required all local authorities to publish an annual Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP), detailing priorities for the year ahead. Although the statutory requirement to publish a BVPP was removed from 2009/10, this process traditionally provided an opportunity for the Council to articulate its key priority objectives for each year. A range of specific key priority objectives for 2009/10 was adopted by the Cabinet at its meeting on 5 February 2009, and performance in relation to the key priority objectives for the year is reviewed on a six-monthly basis.

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

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

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

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

No other options are appropriate in this respect. Failure to monitor and review performance against priority objectives, actions and targets, and to take corrective action where necessary, could have negative implications for the Council's reputation and for judgements made about the authority in corporate assessment processes.

### **Report:**

#### Council Plan 2006-2010

1. The Council Plan for 2006/07 to 2009/10 translated the vision for the district set out by the Community Strategy into the Council's strategic direction, priorities and the most important outcomes that it wanted to achieve, and informed all other plans and helped prioritise resources to provide quality services and value for money. The Council Plan did not cover everything that the authority does, focusing instead on those issues that matter most to local people, national priorities set by the government and local challenges arising from the social, economic and environmental context of the district. As a strategic document, the Council Plan also did not contain specific information on the wide range of services that the authority provides, or how it delivers statutory duties or enforces legislation, and details of the provision of services can be found in the individual directorate business plans produced each year.

2. The Council Plan is an important element in the Council's Performance Management Framework and corporate business planning processes, and informs the content of annual directorate business plans to illustrate the work that directorates and services perform that directly contributes towards the achievement of the Council's corporate objectives. The Council Plan also provides the policy foundation for the authority's Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

3. Progress against the objectives and specific actions contained in the Council Plan is reviewed on an annual basis by the Cabinet and the Finance and Performance Management Scrutiny Panel, and a schedule setting out current (year four) progress towards the achievement of individual Council Plan objectives and actions is attached at Appendix 1 on the supplementary agenda. It should be noted that this progress report, which has previously been considered by the Scrutiny Panel (10 June 2010), reflects final outturn performance for the Council Plan as at 31 March 2010.

4. The lifespan of the Council Plan has now concluded. Members will be aware that work has commenced on the development of a new corporate plan to take the authority forward from 2010/11 to 2013/14, in conjunction with the similar development of a new Community Strategy for the district by the Epping Forest Local Strategic Partnership. A joint Cabinet/Management Board workshop is shortly to be held to facilitate the further development of the new Corporate Plan, which it is currently anticipated will be adopted by the Council in October 2010.

#### Key Priority Objectives 2009/10

5. The Council's key priority objectives for 2009/10 were adopted by the Cabinet at its meeting on 5 February 2009. A schedule detailing outturn performance (at 31 March 2010) against the key priority objectives is attached at Appendix 2 on the supplementary agenda.

6. Progress against the Council's key priorities and objectives was an area of inspection focus in the Managing Performance element of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) process introduced in April 2009. Managing Performance comprised the annual assessment

of the progress the Council is making towards achieving improvement in the services it delivers to the public, and was intended to identify and reflect efforts to put in place plans to secure improvement. Whilst CAA is to be abolished and all work on the Managing Performance element for 2009/10 has ceased, it is nevertheless important to ensure that relevant performance management processes are in place to review and monitor performance against the authority's key objectives, and to agree proposals for corrective action in areas of current under performance.

7. The Cabinet is requested to consider outturn performance against the objectives, actions and targets within the Council Plan for 2006-2010, and the key priority objectives adopted for 2010/11.

#### **Resource Implications:**

Resource requirements for any proposals for corrective action in respect of areas of current under-performance set out in this report will be identified by the respective service director.

#### **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, actions and targets contained in the Council Plan 2006-2010 and the key priority objectives adopted for 2009/10 have been reported by the respective service director.

#### **Background Papers:**

None.

#### **Impact Assessments:**

##### Risk Management

The respective service director will have identified any risk management issues arising from proposals for corrective action in respect of areas of current under-performance in relation to objectives, actions and targets contained in the Council Plan for 2006-2010 and the Council's key priority objectives for 2009/10, as set out in this report

##### Equality and Diversity:

*Did the initial assessment of the proposals contained in this report for relevance to the Council's general equality duties, reveal any potentially adverse equality implications?*

No. The content of this report has no specific equality implications. However, the respective service director will have identified any equality issues arising from proposals for corrective action in respect of areas of current under-performance in relation to objectives, actions and targets contained in the Council Plan for 2006-2010 and the Council's key priority objectives for 2009/10, as set out in this report.

*Where equality implications were identified through the initial assessment process, has a formal Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken?*

N/A

*What equality implications were identified through the Equality Impact Assessment process?*

N/A

*How have the equality implications identified through the Equality Impact Assessment been addressed in this report in order to avoid discrimination against any particular group?*

N/A