

Report to the Cabinet

Report reference: C-003-2012/13

Date of meeting: 11 June 2012



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Portfolio: Leader (Councillor C. Whitbread)

Subject: Corporate Plan Key Objectives 2011/12 – Outturn Progress

Responsible Officer: Steve Tautz (01992 564180)

Democratic Services Officer: Gary Woodhall (01992 564470)

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Cabinet considers outturn progress in relation to the Council's Key Objectives for 2011/12.

Executive Summary:

1. The Corporate Plan is the Council's key strategic planning document, setting out service delivery priorities over the four-year period from 2011/12 to 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 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 specific 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 intentions for each year, containing specific actions and desired outcomes.
3. A range of Key Objectives for 2011/12 was adopted by the Cabinet in January 2011. Progress in relation to the achievement of the Key Objectives is reviewed by the Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on a six-monthly and outturn basis, and mid-year progress for 2011/12 was considered in December 2011.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

4. It is important that relevant performance management processes are in place to review and monitor progress against the Key Objectives, to ensure their continued achievability and relevance, and to identify proposals for appropriate corrective action in areas of slippage or under performance. This report presents the outturn position against the Key Objectives for 2011/12.

Other Options for Action:

5. No other options are appropriate in this respect. Failure to monitor and review performance against the Key Objectives, and to take corrective action where necessary, could have negative implications for the Council's reputation and for judgements made about the authority.

Report:

6. The Corporate Plan for 2011/12 to 2014/15 translates 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 wants to achieve. The Corporate Plan helps to prioritise resources to provide quality services and value for money. The Key Objectives adopted for each year of the Corporate Plan are not intended to reflect everything that the Council does, but focus on national priorities set by the Government and local challenges arising from the social, economic and environmental context of the district. The Key Objectives represent the Council's high-level initiatives and over-arching goals for each year.
7. The Key Objectives for 2011/12 were adopted by the Cabinet at its meeting on 31 January 2011. A schedule detailing outturn progress (at 31 March 2012) against individual actions designed to secure the achievement of each of the Key Objectives, is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
8. Progress against the Key Objectives was an area of focus in former corporate inspection processes, in order to assess the Council's progress in improving the services that it delivered, and to identify and reflect plans to secure further improvement. Whilst such external assessment processes have generally been abolished, it remains important to ensure that appropriate 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 slippage or under performance.
9. The Cabinet is requested to consider outturn performance against the Key Objectives adopted for 2011/12. This report was also considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 7 June 2012, and any comments raised by the Committee will be reported to the Cabinet meeting.
10. Mid-year progress against the Key Objectives adopted for 2012/13 will be reported to the Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the November/December 2012 cycle of meetings.

Resource Implications:

Resource requirements for any proposals for corrective action in respect of areas of slippage or under-performance in relation to the Key Objectives for 2011/12, will be identified by the responsible service director(s).

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 Key Objectives.

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. The recommendations in this report ensure that the Council monitors progress against the achievement of its Key Objectives.

Consultation Undertaken:

Outturn performance against the Key Objectives for 2011/12 has been reported by the responsible service director(s) and has been reviewed by Management Board. This report

was provided to the Leader of the Council in advance of the preparation of the agenda for the cabinet meeting, and was also considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7 June 2012.

Background Papers:

None

Impact Assessments:

Risk Management

The responsible service director will have identified any risk management issues arising from proposals for corrective action in respect of areas of slippage or under-performance in relation to the Key Objectives for 2011/12, 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 responsible service director will have identified any equality issues arising from proposals for corrective action in respect of areas of slippage or under-performance in relation to the Key Objectives for 2011/12, 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