

Cherwell District Council
Overview and Scrutiny Committee

12 January 2016

Development of Corporate Business Plan, Priorities and Pledges 2016/17

Report of Head of Transformation

This report is public

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to facilitate the development of the corporate business plan, its associated priorities and pledges for 2016/17.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is invited to consider, discuss and offer feedback upon the proposed priorities and pledges for 2016/17 in order to ensure a transparent and engaging whole Council approach to the development of the priorities, prior to consideration by Executive and Full Council in February 2016.

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended to:

- 1.1 consider the draft corporate priorities, outcomes and pledges for 2016/17
- 1.2 identify any areas to be discussed for referral to Executive on 1st February 2016.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 Every good business has a business plan in place which sets out its direction of travel and plans for growth, and how it plans to invest its resources to achieve its ambitions.
- 2.2 At Cherwell District Council we combine the principles of private sector best practice in this area, with the need to provide transparency in the way in which we invest tax payers' money and other sources of external funding to achieve better outcomes for our District. Our business plan, corporate priorities and pledges provide a tool through which we can be, and are, held to account, and our performance measured by our constituents and other key partners/stakeholders.
- 2.3 The business plan is an essential part of our internal governance arrangements, enabling us to evidence strong and effective corporate health and performance management. Not only does it align our financial resources to the delivery of key

outcomes for the benefit of our business community and residents, but it also provides a framework through which we can ensure that our staff understand the part they play in helping to make a difference to our District, and putting Cherwell District Council on the map as a forwarding thinking, visionary, and dynamic Council, as already evidenced through the awards that we have been shortlisted for and won.

- 2.4 Once the corporate business plan, priorities and pledges are set by Full Council they are used to develop local service plans and set the performance objectives of every employee in the Council for the year ahead; from the Chief Executive through to Waste Collection Operative, ensuring that our staff spend their productivity time on the things that matter most, and will ultimately make a positive difference.
- 2.5 Such an approach is tried and tested, and it works. The corporate business plan lives through its translation into quarterly performance management reports received by the Joint Management Team, Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Executive. This enables us to collectively monitor progress and ensure that we remain on track to deliver the things that we set out to achieve at the beginning of the performance year.
- 2.6 The draft corporate priorities and pledges for 2016/17 have, so far, been developed with the Executive. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is now invited to make its contribution.

3.0 Report Details

3.1 Strategic Priorities, Pledges and Outcomes for 2016/17

3.2 We are not a Council that wants to be all things to all people and takes on more than it can sensibly manage or afford. We are a Council that listens to our constituents and stakeholders; we are a Council that is committed to financial sustainability and growth; we are a Council prepared to make difficult decisions to that end, and we are a Council that prides itself on doing the things we do well. For the time being, these principles are serving us well.

3.3 For the year ahead we are not proposing to change the four current strategic priorities, other than to make a small change to the way in which one is described, and better demonstrates the District to be one whole community (from “Thriving Communities” to “A Thriving Community”). Consequently it is recommended that the four strategic priorities for 2016/17 should be:

- District of Opportunity
- Safe, Green, Clean
- A Thriving Community
- Sound Budgets and Customer Focused Council

3.4 Appendix A sets out the detail of the proposed key objectives that underpin the four strategic priorities and ten Pledges that it is recommended that the Council makes to our constituents for the year ahead.

3.5 They have taken into consideration the annual customer satisfaction survey results and feedback from 2015 and will be considered by Executive, along with the feedback from this Committee in February for recommendation to Full Council.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 A corporate business plan is an essential part of good corporate governance, providing both a statement to stakeholders, partners and constituents and transparency in how the business plans to invest its resources. It also provides important links between the strategic objectives and what our staff deliver for us on a day to day basis.
- 4.2 It is important to ensure that a transparent and engaging approach is adopted to the development of the corporate priorities and pledges to ensure whole Council agreement to the direction of travel for the Council and our District for the year ahead.

5.0 Consultation

- 5.1 The results of the 2015 annual customer satisfaction survey have informed the development of the proposed key outcomes for 2016/17 and what will become the corporate business plan.
- 5.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is now invited to help shape and influence the proposed priorities and key outcomes for the year ahead prior to consideration by Executive and Full Council in February 2016.
- 5.3 The process of developing the corporate business plan is complemented by an equally inclusive approach to the development of the proposed Council budget for 2016/17, for which separate consultation arrangements are put in place.

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 6.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.
- 6.2 There are no alternative options as the Committee is being invited to consider and comment on the contents of Appendix 1 as part of a whole Council approach to the development of the corporate priorities and pledges for 2016/17.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 Financial implications – The draft budget is out for consultation and closes on 2 February 2016.

Comments checked by:

Paul Sutton - Head of Finance and Procurement

03000 030106 Paul.Sutton@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

Legal Implications

- 7.2 There are no legal issues arising from this report.

Comments checked by:

Kevin Lane, Head of Law and Governance

0300 0030107 kevin.lane@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

Risk Implications

- 7.3 There are no risks arising directly from this report or the proposed priorities and pledges. Once the Council has agreed the business plan for 2016/17 (and associated priorities and pledges) all managers will be required to identify and manage any risks associated with delivering the business plan in accordance with the Council's corporate performance and risk management framework. All risks are logged on the corporate risk register and reported quarterly to the Audit Committee as part of the service planning cycle.

Comments checked by:

Ros Holloway - Performance Information Officer

01295 221578 Ros.Holloway@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

8.0 Decision Information

Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

This report and associated appendix represents the development of the actual corporate plan for 2016/17. It sets the direction of travel for the Council and provides a measure through which all of the Council's resources are managed. The business plan and pledges are measures through which the Council can be held accountable to its constituents for delivering better outcomes for the District, informed by the annual customer satisfaction survey.

Lead Councillor

Councillor Barry Wood

Leader of the Council

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
A	Cherwell District Council proposed priorities and pledges
Background Papers	
None	
Report Author	Shirley Vaughan, Performance and Planning Officer
Contact Information	01327 322375 shirley.vaughan@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk