

Cherwell District Council
Overview and Scrutiny Committee

23 January 2018

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| Consideration of the Business Planning documentation for 2018/19 |
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Report of Chief Executive

This report is public

Purpose of report

To consider the draft Business Planning and Performance Management documentation that will support the Budget for 2018/19 and to make any comments for inclusion in the final versions.

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To note the documentation, and make any observations it feels appropriate

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 2018/19 is the last year of a five year Strategic Planning cycle.
- 2.2 Cherwell District Council and South Northamptonshire Council have previously developed individual five year Strategic and annual Business Plans
- 2.2 Officers have adopted a “light touch” approach to refresh of the annual Business Plan, in terms of the strategic priorities, but has sought to converge the two plans into a joint plan, which all members across the two Councils can endorse and relate to.
- 2.3 Increasingly, the integration of services and management structures have created a single organisation on the inside, serving the two councils on the outside.
- 2.4 The current Strategic Plans are very similar in content – the high level vision and strategic priorities are virtually the same, with some specific localised programmes and initiatives providing the only real differences
- 2.5 The Performance Management information has followed the structure of the existing plans, but has lacked precision and focus on the critical performance measures. Similarly, the number of measures and presentation of reports has not

enabled Members and Senior Management to monitor and manage performance against the Business Plans as effectively as we would like.

- 2.6 The number of measures and volume of input required by officers has also meant that the quality of information has been variable.

3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 This report introduces a number of documents which provide the necessary detail for the Committee to consider the proposals
- 3.2 The Plan on a Page shows a Joint Business Plan for the two Councils. It summarises the high level priorities, drawn from the five year Strategic Plan, that will form the basis of the Operational Plans for each of the services.
- 3.3 This is essentially a communication tool, showing the direction and key priorities for delivery in the last year of the five year plan cycle
- 3.4 The spreadsheet appended shows the Joint Business Plan in more detail, but will effectively be the format against which progress will be reported in the future.
- 3.5 The first page of the spreadsheet outlines the key joint programmes of work contributing to the Business Plan priorities. On a regular basis, officers will be completing the commentary, updating members on progress against the key programmes of work.
- 3.6 The second page identifies the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), again reported on a regular basis, that provide an analysis of our comparative performance against neighbouring authorities and local government nationally. These will include not only front facing service measures, but also corporate measures, providing members with a view as to how the organisation is being managed.
- 3.7 It is intended that shortly after the Full Council meeting in February, we will develop the process for a full review and development of the next five year Strategic Plan. This will be a comprehensive review, involving all key stakeholders and partners, locally and regionally, to determine the direction and vision of the Councils for the next five years and beyond.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 The recommendation as set out in the report is believed to be in the best interests of the Council.

5.0 Consultation

None.

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

6.1 The following alternative options have been identified:

Option 1: To continue with the existing plans and performance management arrangements

Option 2: To develop separate plans for each of the Councils

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

7.1 There may be some minor financial implications if there are any system changes required to implement the new performance management, but these will be kept to a minimum.

Comments checked by: Paul Sutton, Executive Director Finance and Governance, 01295 221634, paul.sutton@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

Legal Implications

7.2 There are no Legal implications identified

Comments checked by: Nigel Bell, Interim Legal Services Manager, 01295 221687, nigel.bell@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk

8.0 Decision Information

Wards Affected

All

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

All

Lead Councillor

Not applicable.

Document Information

| Appendix No | Title |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Plan on a Page |
| 2 | Business Plan Tracker |
| Background Papers | |
| None | |
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