

REPORT TO COUNCIL

25 FEBRUARY 2015

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CORPORATE PLAN FOR 2013-17

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Council's reviewed Corporate Plan 2013-17 (attached Appendix A) for Council to consider and approve.

2. Connection to Corporate Plan / Other Corporate Priority

- 2.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2013-17, reviewed for 2015-16 includes the Council's vision and improvement priorities.

3. Background

- 3.1 In April 2013, the Council published its Corporate Plan 2013-17. The Plan set out the Council's six improvement priorities and identified its 2013-14 Commitments to deliver those priorities.
- 3.2 The Council also published a four-year Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) in February 2013. This identified the resources provided to support the delivery of the improvement priorities. The MTFS is reviewed regularly. The Corporate Plan is reviewed annually as required by the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.
- 3.3 In October 2014 the Budget Review 2015 consultation sought to obtain views from citizens on how and where the Council could make a £11.2 million reduction in the 2015-16 budget.
- 3.4 The results of the budget consultation has guided the review of the Corporate Plan for 2015-16 to ensure that the Council remains focused on improving services that matter the most to our citizens within our diminishing resources.

4. Current Situation

- 4.1 The Council has reviewed its improvement priorities, outcomes and actions defined for each priority to ensure they are still pertinent and affordable.
- 4.2 The review has concluded that the six improvement priorities in the Corporate Plan 2013-17 are still relevant. These priorities are:
- Working together to develop the local economy
 - Working together to raise ambitions and drive up educational achievement
 - Working with children and families to tackle problems early
 - Working together to help vulnerable people to stay independent
 - Working together to tackle health issues and encourage healthy lifestyles
 - Working together to make the best use of our resources.

- 4.3 The review also concluded that the desired outcomes for each improvement priority should stay the same but that key actions identified to deliver these outcomes by 2017 be modified and reduced in number to ensure a clear focus on the areas that matter the most to our citizens.
- 4.4 The review has identified the specific steps that the Council will take during 2015-16 to deliver each of these priorities. Once approved, these commitments will be carried out through the Council's directorate business plans and service delivery plans.
- 4.5 The Council's Community Safety and Governance Overview and Scrutiny Committee scrutinised the reviewed improvement priorities, actions to deliver those priorities, and the commitments for 2015-16. The Committee invited all Scrutiny Chairs to ensure a corporate response to the consultation.
- 4.6 The Committee made a number of comments and suggestions. All comments have been considered and all suggestions have been incorporated into the plan except one, that is, "The Committee suggested under the heading 'What do we want to achieve by 31 March 2017?' it should state 'We aim to' rather than 'We will'. The reason for not adopting this suggestion is that the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and the statutory guidance require that improvement objectives "both describe the overall purpose and the scope of action to deliver it". "Aim to" is too broad to meet this requirement.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules

- 5.1 The Council's Corporate Plan forms part of the Policy Framework. It provides the general direction for service delivery. Priorities with specific policy implications will be the subject of separate reports in accordance with the requirements of the constitution and legislation.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.1 A full equality impact assessment was conducted on the Corporate Plan 2013-17 when the Plan was developed in 2013. An EIA screening has concluded that no further EIA is required at this time. Delivery of the Corporate Plan will have a positive impact on promoting equalities across the county borough.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 None in this report.

8. Recommendation

- 8.1 That Council approve and adopt the Corporate Plan 2013-17 reviewed for 2015-16 (attached Appendix A).

Darren Mepham
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Background Documents

- Corporate Plan 2013-17
- Medium-Term Financial Strategy - Budget Review Consultation 2015