

“GROWING SUCCESS” – CORPORATE PLAN: AN UPDATE**(Report by the Head of Policy)****1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide a progress report for the Cabinet on the updating of the Council’s Corporate Plan.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Earlier this year, the Overview & Scrutiny Panels and the Cabinet endorsed a process for reviewing and updating Growing Success - the Council’s Corporate Plan.

- 2.2 At the suggestion of the Cabinet, the Overview and Scrutiny Panels have taken a lead on this process. Specifically they appointed a joint working group to undertake this work, comprising Councillors M G Baker, Mrs M Banerjee, S J Criswell, D B Dew, B Eaton and J A Gray.

- 2.3 To assist the working group in their role, training was given on the process of reviewing objectives and developing the performance management framework. The course was based one held previously for Executive Councillors. A training session was held also for all members of the two Overview and Scrutiny Panels to help them contribute to the review process.

- 2.4 Subsequently the Group has met on a number of occasions to undertake a detailed review of the plan, and particularly the associated objectives and targets. This review has been supported by similar considerations by the Chief Officer Management Team and officers generally.

3. REVIEW

- 3.1 During their deliberations the Group came to the conclusion that in view of the complexity of the process and importance in setting the future direction of the Council, it would not be possible to conclude the exercise within the original timetable while giving Members and adequate opportunity to contribute. The Corporate and Strategic Framework Panel at their meeting in September, considered a working draft of the Plan. This provided a preliminary opportunity to consider the Plan, prior to both Panels considering it individually at their meetings in October. To aid this process it was agreed that the “aims” and supporting objectives should be divided between the two panels, as follows –

SERVICE DEILVERY	SERVICE SUPPORT
Community Aims	
Healthy Living	A clean, ‘green’ and attractive place
Housing that meets local needs	Access to services and transport

Safe, active and inclusive communities	A strong, diverse local economy
Council Aims	
To continually improve systems and practices	To continually learn and develop To maintain sound finances

- 3.2 Both Panels generally support the objectives with the draft plan, and endorsed the associated targets as far as they had been proposed. Detailed comments have been referred to the joint working group to inform their considerations.
- 3.3 The final stage will be endorsement of the plan by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Corporate and Strategic Framework) and Cabinet in November, prior to adoption of the plan by the Council in December 2006.
- 3.4 An important aspect in the development of the Plan is the setting of short term priorities in areas where the council wishes to see significant progress. This will facilitate achievement in areas where there are identified local needs or in aspects of the Council's performance where development is necessary. The selection of the priorities will be discussed with Executive Councillors and the appointed Working Group prior to formal consideration by the Corporate and Strategic Framework Panel and the Cabinet.
- 3.5 During this process all members of the Council will be given the opportunity to comment on the Draft Plan, either directly, or via the Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Members of the Cabinet are invited to note progress in the review of the Corporate.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Growing Success: Corporate Plan

Reports and Minutes-

- Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Corporate and Strategic Framework) - 5th September 2006
- Overview and Scrutiny Panel, Service Support - 10th October 2006
- Overview and Scrutiny Panel, Service Delivery – 3rd October 2006
- Cabinet – 8th June 2006

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