

CORPORATE PLAN WORKING GROUP

NOTES OF MEETING HELD 25TH MAY 2010

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Corporate Plan Working Group met on 25th May 2010 when Councillors J D Ablewhite, S J Criswell, P M D Godfrey, D Harty, G S E Thorpe and R J West were present.
- 1.2 Miss H Ali, A Roberts and H Thackray were in attendance.

2. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

(a) Social Well-Being

- 2.1 The Working Group has drawn attention to the number of admissions/participants in activities provided or promoted by the Council at its Leisure Centres, which has not achieved the end of year target. It has been noted that the closure of the two pools over the summer, adverse weather conditions during the winter period and the means by which admissions to the Burgess Hall facility are calculated might all be contributory factors to the shortfall. With regard to the latter, the Working Group has queried why admissions to the Burgess Hall facility are being recorded under this key measure as admissions from the facility do not appear to contribute towards the objective "to increase participation in healthy physical activities". Comment also has been made on the need to ensure that admissions from the Leisure Centres are recorded separately from those to the Burgess Hall. Clarification has, therefore, been sought on this in advance of the Social Well-Being Panel meeting.
- 2.2 The Working Group has questioned whether realistic targets have been set for the key measures relating to "throughput of people experiencing arts interventions as a result of Arts Service and Partner activities during 2009/10", "throughput on identified schemes" and "total throughput of activity programme for disabled participants and under-represented groups" given that they have exceeded annual targets by 128%, 89% and 120% respectively. With regard to the "throughput on identified schemes" measure, it was reported that an extension of funding from external sources has enabled additional activities to be held over the year therefore increasing the number of participants in schemes.
- 2.3 Members' attention has been drawn to an amendment to the actual figure recorded for the key measure relating to the "number of households living in temporary accommodation". The figure has been amended from 91 to 74 following a data quality audit. In response to requests, the Policy and Strategic Services Manager undertook to confirm with Members what the target for this measure will be for the 2010/11 year. Clarification has also been sought on the types of accommodation available and whether an upper limit on the number of households living in temporary accommodation has been set for the District Council.

- 2.4 In respect of the “% of housing completions on qualifying sites that are affordable in market towns and key settlements” and the “% of housing completions on qualifying sites that are affordable in smaller settlements” it has been reported that the March 2010 figures will be available in December 2010, following a survey undertaken by the County Council.

(b) Environmental Well-Being

- 2.5 In noting that the target for the key measure relating to the “tonnes of CO2 saved from year one carbon management projects” had not been achieved, Members have been advised that this can be attributed to the fact that not all the Leisure Centres have installed new combined heat and power systems as originally planned. At present, only the Huntingdon facility has the system installed and a decision has been made to review the system before rolling it out to the other Leisure Centres. Additionally, the Policy and Strategic Services Manager reported that an energy review of the remaining sites was currently being undertaken. The Working Group also has noted the implications for the Council of Government initiatives relating to carbon tax and carbon credits.

(c) Economic Well-Being

- 2.6 The Working Group has been informed of an amendment to the figure recorded against the key measure for “internal promotions as percentage of all vacancies filled” from 16% to 61% which means its designation changes from a “red” to a “green” indicator.
- 2.7 In respect of the measure relating to “actual income received compared to budget” Members have drawn attention to apparent inconsistencies in Appendix B – Comments from appropriate Head of Service. On the one hand it is stated that the Burgess Hall is £20k up on target and £30k up on the previous year but later on hospitality income appears to have dropped by £65k across the board. The Working Group has suggested that clarification should be sought on this and on the role of the Catering Manager at the St Ivo Leisure Centre.

3. REVIEW OF TARGETS IN GROWING SUCCESS

- 3.1 Members have been reminded that the review previously conducted by the Working Group of the non-priority targets in Growing Success has been approved by the Cabinet. A revised Corporate Plan will be circulated electronically to Members over the new few weeks.
- 3.2 The Working Group will have an important role in a comprehensive review of the Corporate Plan which will be undertaken later in the year.

4. PLACE SURVEY

- 4.1 The Scrutiny and Review Manager reported that the Social Well-Being Panel had previously requested an update on further research, which had been planned in order to understand better the findings of the Place Survey. The Policy and Strategic Services Manager reported that the other authorities in the County had

decided not to continue with plans to engage focus groups for this purpose and that as the next Place Survey would be undertaken in September 2010, further work would not now take place. As the Survey is undertaken on a County-wide basis employing focus groups only in Huntingdonshire would have little effect on its findings. It has, however, been commented that such work will be ever more important when the Council has to take decisions on the Budget.

5. THE COUNCIL'S USE OF CONSULTANTS

- 5.1 Members have been advised that the Overview and Scrutiny Panels' recommendation in respect of the Council's expenditure on consultants had been considered and noted by the Cabinet. The Working Group has indicated that they intend to undertake further work on this subject. The Council spent in the order of £2m on consultants last year and Members wish to satisfy themselves that it is subject to appropriate controls, management and justification. Whilst it has been acknowledged that the use of some consultants can add value to the work of the Council, Members are of the view that this might provide an opportunity to identify future savings required by the Council. It is further intended to include any work that is outsourced by the Council in this work.

6. MAKING CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNT



- 6.1 The Working Group has noted that the Environmental Well-Being Panel has requested an update on the Council's position in respect of Making Cambridgeshire Count.

7. BUDGET ANALYSIS

- 7.1 It has been agreed to raise this as an Item at the next Corporate Plan Working Group meeting following the Overview and Scrutiny Training Day which is scheduled for Thursday, 3rd June 2010.

8. JOINT CHAIRMEN'S MEETING

- 8.1 Members have agreed that a joint meeting of the Chairmen should be held prior to the next scheduled Council meeting on 23rd June 2010. Details will be confirmed at a later date.

Contact Officer: Miss H Ali, Democratic Services Officer
 (01480) 388006
 Habbiba.Ali@huntsdc.gov.uk