

CORPORATE PLAN WORKING GROUP

NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17TH FEBRUARY 2011

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Corporate Plan Working Group met on 17th February 2011 when Councillors J D Ablewhite, S J Criswell, P M D Godfrey, G S E Thorpe and R J West were present.
- 1.2 An Apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor D Harty.
- 1.3 D Buckridge, Mrs C Garbett and A Roberts 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” which, given the Council’s investments in its Leisure Centres, they expect to show an increase in attendances. Members have noted that this increase has been factored into the target and that the downward direction of travel can partially be attributed to the fact that, owing to poor weather during November and December, the Council has been forced to cancel some activities at the St Ives Outdoor Centre. It has not necessarily been the case that there has been a fall in uptake of One Leisure Services; there have been some falls and some increases. Indeed, the Working Group has been made aware that there have been instances when One Leisure has struggled to cope with demand. This is something that One Leisure is addressing.
- 2.2 The Working Group has highlighted the figures achieved for households living in temporary accommodation. Although the target has been reached, a considerable improvement has been made compared with the figure for the last quarter. This has resulted in the performance progressing from being Red to now being rated as Amber.
- 2.3 The Working Group has accepted the reason given for the Red rating given to the target relating to affordable housing (commitments) on qualifying sites. Members also have noted that, owing to a change in the way the information is collected, a combined figure has been reported for the targets for housing completions on qualifying sites that are affordable in market towns, key settlements and smaller settlements.

(b) Environmental Well-Being

- 2.4 The Working Group has noted that all the targets relating to the Council’s priorities in this section of the report have been achieved and that there are no adverse directions of travel. The target for energy efficiency and renewable

energy measures carried out as a result of Council schemes and promotions has been exceeded by a considerable margin.

(c) Economic Well-Being

- 2.5 Members of the Working Group have noted that a review of the Council's partnership working was currently being undertaken.
- 2.6 The Working Group has commented that Officers' desire to secure their future employment during the period when Voluntary Release was available may account for the high figure for the actual performance against the target for internal promotions as a percentage of all vacancies filled.
- 2.7 The Economic Well-Being Panel, the last time it received the performance monitoring report, discussed how the measure for the percentage of employees who are still in post after twelve months is recorded. The question was whether those on fixed term contracts that expired during the reporting period should be discounted. If this is done, the figure is 83.3%, which is much closer to the target. However, the approach adopted has not been changed as this will enable trends to be monitored and because the Council's short-term practice of preferring fixed term contracts will shortly end.
- 2.8 The Working Group has suggested that the One Leisure Working Group should be requested to examine the impact on One Leisure of the County Council's decision to devolve budgets for swimming to schools.
- 2.9 It has been reported that work on implementing two of the external funding strategy actions is on hold.

3. CORPORATE PLAN

- 3.1 The Working Group has been involved in a review of the Council's Corporate Plan. Members have made a number of suggestions on its form and contents. The draft Corporate Plan appears elsewhere on the Agenda. It is intended that Overview and Scrutiny comments will be passed to the Cabinet on 17th March 2011 before the draft Corporate Plan is submitted to the Council for approval on 20th April 2011. The new Plan departs from the previous format with a greater focus on specific outcomes. These outcomes take account of local residents' views and needs and the Council's resources. Whilst the Council's priorities will be fixed for the next 3-4 years, the targets within the Plan will be reviewed annually.

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