

**NEW COUNCIL PLAN
(Report by the Head of People, Performance & Partnership)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to Members a new Council Plan setting out the Council's vision and priorities for the next 3-4 years.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 "Growing Success", the current corporate plan, was first adopted in December 2006. Since the last revision was approved, the Government has announced changes to the national performance framework for local authorities, including the replacement of the National Indicator Set and the abolition of the Comprehensive Area Assessment and the Audit Commission. The Council is also facing a new set of challenges due to the need to make significant changes to the services it provides as a result of budget cuts.
- 2.2 As a result of these changes, Cabinet appointed a Working Group to develop a new Council Plan focussing on priorities for the next 3-4 years. The following Members were appointed to this group: Councillor Bates, Leader of the Council; Councillor Rogers, Executive Councillor for Finance and Customer Services; Councillor Churchill, Executive Councillor for Resources and Policy; Councillor Ablewhite, Chairman of Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Economic Well-Being); and Councillor Criswell, Chairman of Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Social Well-Being).

3. DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PLAN

- 3.1 The Working Group considered a wide range of possible priority areas based on the results of public consultation exercises and evidence of local need. A small number of priorities were selected and these have subsequently been reviewed and revised following discussions with Cabinet, Chief Officers' Management Team, Heads of Service and the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the three Overview & Scrutiny Panels. All Members were asked for their comments on the priorities by email.
- 3.2 The final version of the Plan attached as Appendix A lists six priority objectives for the next 3-4 years with a small number of targets. Publishing these targets will increase transparency and accountability to Members and residents. Some targets are still under development and will be finalised by April.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 Members of the Panel are invited to give their final comments and endorse the Plan prior to consideration by Cabinet.