

CORPORATE PLAN WORKING GROUP

NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 25TH MAY 2011

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Corporate Plan Working Group met on 25th May 2011 when Councillors S J Criswell, P M D Godfrey, S Greenall, D Harty, D M Tysoe and R J West were present.

1.3 Miss H Ali, H Thackray and A Roberts were in attendance.

2. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

(a) Social Well-Being

2.1 The Working Group has accepted the reason given for the red rating for the target relating to affordable housing (commitments) on qualifying sites.

2.2 Whilst encouraged to note that the performance levels achieved by the Council in preventing the number of households from becoming homeless, some concerns were expressed by the Working Group on the impact of budgetary cuts upon the achievement of the aims and objectives of the Homelessness Strategy which is due to be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 23rd June 2011. It was however noted that the Council had recently approved a New Council Plan at its meeting in April 2011, to which "prevent and deal with homelessness" had been endorsed as a new Council priority.

2.3 Members of the Working Group were encouraged to note the performance of the Leisure Centres over the reporting period.

(b) Economic Well-Being

2.4 Whilst noting the red rating for the targets relating to the key activity for the performance and delivery of the thematic groups and the submission of performance reports to the HSP Executive and HSP Board, the Working Group were advised that this was attributable to the cancellation of partnership meetings over the reporting period, including the HSP Executive and HSP Board. The meetings had been cancelled owing to the fact that a review of the Council's partnership arrangements was currently being undertaken. In that light, Members concurred that there was a role for the Overview and Scrutiny Panels to be involved in the review process. Councillor D M Tysoe requested for details of each of the thematic groups and partner representatives to be forwarded to him for information purposes.

2.5 Further to previous queries raised by the Working Group, the Policy and Strategic Services Manager reported upon the level of employee absence from sickness experienced at the Council. The Working Group has been encouraged to note that the number of sick days per employee at the Council was calculated

as being 6.8 days, which compared favourably against the national and private sector comparisons of 9.6 and 7.7 days respectively.

- 2.6 In noting the amber rating for the measure relating to the % of External Funding actions on track, Members agreed to refer the action which had been identified as not being on track to the Social Well-Being Panel's Voluntary Sector Working Group.
- 2.7 With reference to Annex B, the Working Group has requested for details of the "Make It Your Market" initiative to be circulated to them for information purposes. Particular requests were made for the project timescales and the long term benefits of the initiative.
- 2.8 Members of the Working Group have sought clarification on the meaning of the words "Recruitment is picking up again" as reported by the Head of People, Performance and Partnerships in Annex B of the report.
- 2.9 In response to a question raised by a Member, it was reported that an overarching Strategy for the Leisure Centres existed. A joint study on One Leisure was being undertaken by the Social and Economic Well-Being Panels, interim findings for which would be reported to both Panels at their June meetings.

(c) Environmental Well-Being



- 2.10 In noting the red rating for the % of Physical Infrastructure Development activities on track, the Working Group has requested for details of the Local Economy Strategy, to include the activities contained within the Strategy, to be circulated to them.
- 2.11 Referring to Annex B, Members of the Working Group have queried the means by which energy reduction trails at two of the Council's car parks were being undertaken. Clarification has been sought from the Head of Environmental Management.
- 2.12 Whilst noting the achievements reported in Annex B relating to progress with the Business Improvement District scheme, clarification has been received by the Policy and Strategic Services Manager on the objectives of the scheme.
- 2.13 In noting the risks reported in Annex B relating to occupancy levels at the CreativeXchange in St Neots, the Working Group has agreed that the Head of People, Performance and Partnerships should be invited to attend a future meeting of the Environmental Well-Being Panel to discuss the project and to outline the role of Partners within it. It was further agreed that an update should also be provided on the St Ives Enterprise Centre. The meaning of the acronym "NWES" has further been sought by Members.

3. NEW COUNCIL PLAN – FUTURE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

- 3.1 The Policy and Strategic Services Manager has reported that consideration was currently being given to the future performance monitoring mechanisms for the

New Council Plan which was approved by the Council in April 2011. Members placed on record their wish to continue their involvement with the monitoring of the Plan. It was reported that a process of determining what actions and targets to be reported in the future was currently being undertaken with Chief Officers and Heads of Service.

- 3.2 Comment also has been made upon the impact of the transfer of health to the County Council and whether appropriate performance monitoring measures and mechanisms were in place. Additionally, the impact of this upon the scrutiny of the Local Strategic Partnership in the future has also been considered.

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