

Report for Resolution

Report to Executive
11 June 2008
Report of Chief Executive
Subject The Council's Corporate Plan

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Purpose

To consider the current draft version of the Corporate Plan.

Recommendation

To recommend the Corporate Plan to Council for approval, subject to any editing and design changes, to be agreed by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

Financial Consequences

The delivery of the Corporate Plan is supported by the Council's medium term financial strategy and by the approved budget.

Strategic Objective/Service Priorities

The Corporate Plan sets the priorities for the Council through to 2010.

Executive Member - Leader of the Council

Ward - All

Contact Officers

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Background Documents

None

Report

Corporate Plan

1. The Council's current Corporate Plan was agreed in June 2007 and ran for a period of one year. There is a legislative requirement to publish performance information by the end of June 2008 and it is proposed to incorporate this in a new Corporate Plan which will be submitted to Council, for final approval, on 24th June.
2. The proposed draft corporate plan is attached as Appendix 1. This is work in progress, as was the plan at this stage last year. The Corporate Plan is an important document for the Council as it sets out an overall high-level summary of Norwich City Council's work – looking back at the Council's performance last year (2007/08), and looking forward at plans and priorities for the next two years (2008/10). It also looks at how our objectives fit in with those of the Council's major partners, and how collective plans will ensure the positive growth and development of the city and our ambitions for the future.
3. The section of the plan detailing key priorities for 2008-2010 continues to be refined – the section contained with this report is the copy which was circulated at the Scrutiny meeting on 5th June for consideration. Any additional refinements will be reported to the meeting on 11th June along with Scrutiny's comments on the draft plan.
4. The Plan follows the same template as last year's plan but differs in timescale as it is proposed that it should be for a two year period through to 2010' which will allow planning through to the transition to unitary local government. There is an ongoing requirement to improve delivery of priorities as well as planning for the transition. This approach is explained in more detail in the plan.
5. In preparing this plan the recommendations of previous audit commission inspections have been taken on board and of the peer review which all suggested that we needed to improve the linkages between the ambitions of the City of Norwich Partnership, those of the Council in the Corporate Plan and the political priorities of the Council. Also there was a suggestion that the Council had too many priorities and that their articulation was unclear – the Council needed to identify its core business, what are and are not priorities and communicate these. This plan has taken on board those recommendations and the forward looking section of the plan has been extended to achieve greater clarity and focus.

Further work will be undertaken on editing and design of the document through the Communications and Design teams, with a view to the designed and edited document being presented to Council on 24th June. This will not change the document in substance but will improve its layout and look. We are seeking approval to make these minor changes.