

AGENDA ITEM 4

CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

27 JUNE 2007

DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN ANNUAL UPDATE 2007/08

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: JAN RICHMOND

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To ask Corporate Affairs Committee to approve the Strategic Plan Annual Update 2007/08.

BACKGROUND

2. In 2003/04, the Government issued new guidelines, which reduced the amount of information that had to be contained within Best Value Performance Plans. The new guidelines provided increased flexibility to 'good' and 'excellent' councils and enabled Middlesbrough Council to produce its first Corporate Performance Plan, which subsumed the requirements of the Best Value Performance Plan.
3. 'Good' and 'excellent' councils are required to include the following information in their Best Value Performance Plans:
 - out-turn data for Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPs)
 - targets for BVPs in the current year and subsequent two years
 - confirmation that they are adopting the code of practice in their approach to workforce matters and contracting.
4. Under the new CPA methodology, Middlesbrough Council achieved a 4-star rating in December 2005. This enabled the Council to retain flexibility regarding how it addresses the Best Value Performance Plan requirements.
5. In 2006, Middlesbrough Council decided to replace its Corporate Performance Plan with a three-year Strategic Plan that articulated the Council's medium-term priorities

as well as providing details on the improvement activities to be undertaken within the following year. The rationale for this approach was:

- to ensure alignment of current plans
 - to formalise medium-term planning
 - in response to external influences.
6. The Strategic Plan incorporated the Council's statutory requirements in relation to producing a Best Value Performance Plan and also included local requirements to strengthen the alignment between performance and budget planning.
7. The Strategic Plan is structured in three parts:
- Part I – '*Corporate Overview*' - the Council's long-term vision and medium-term priorities.
 - Part II – '*Achievements and Future Actions*' - this section reflects on the Council's performance, and includes the actions proposed for the current year.
 - Part III – '*Supporting Documentation*' - detailed performance and budget Information.
8. The Deputy Mayor approved the proposed format and content of the Strategic Plan on 7th March 2007. The original three-part structure of the Strategic Plan will be retained for the annual update. However, only parts II and III will be amended and reprinted.
9. A draft version of the Strategic Plan Annual Update 2007/08 was circulated to:
- CMT
 - Executive
 - Overview and Scrutiny Board
 - scrutiny panels – relevant sections of the plan only
 - the Local Strategic Partnership Board
 - service areas.
10. The feedback received has been considered and incorporated into the final draft version of the Strategic Plan Annual Update 2007/08.
11. The Strategic Plan Annual Update 2007/08 may be subject to further slight amendments prior to printing. These will not significantly alter the fundamental nature and content of the document. The types of amendments that may occur include:
- the final document will be a printed document so it will look and feel very different from the current version. However, the actual textual content will be similar
 - editorial and proof reading changes
 - updated figures, particularly Best Value Performance Indicators, may be amended and if final out-turn figures change then targets and actions may require amendment.

PROPOSAL

12. That Corporate Affairs Committee note and approve the Strategic Plan Annual Update 2007/08.
13. That Corporate Affairs Committee agree to any minor editorial changes as outlined in paragraph 8.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

14. Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

15. That Corporate Affairs Committee approve the Strategic Plan Annual Update 2007/08.
16. That Corporate Affairs Committee authorise further slight amendments that do not materially affect the document.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None used.

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