

Agenda Item 201

Brighton & Hove City Council

Meeting: Policy & Resources Committee

Date: 11 February 2004

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Corporate Services

Subject: Corporate Plan 2004/07

1. Purpose of the report

To seek the approval of the Policy & Resources Committee for the Corporate Plan 2004-2007.

2. Recommendations

2.1 **TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** that the Corporate Plan 2004/07 be agreed.

3 Background

3.1 The Corporate Plan is the first part of the 'Delivery Plan' 2004-2007 which also includes the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the annual Performance Plan (BVPP). The Performance Plan has already been agreed by Council, published and distributed. The financial strategy is also being presented to the Policy & Resources Committee on 11 February.

3.2 The production of a medium term Corporate Plan was a key recommendation of the corporate assessment element of the CPA (Comprehensive Performance Assessment) which was published in December 2002. It is therefore both an important long term planning tool and a necessary requirement for the council in the view of the Audit Commission.

4. Content of the Corporate Plan

4.1 The Corporate Plan provides a strategic umbrella for the council's other strategies and plans and provides the link between the Community Strategy and these plans. It presents four priorities for the council as community leader for 2004- 2007:

- Developing a prosperous and sustainable economy
- Liveability (improving quality of life in the city)

- Social well-being and caring for vulnerable people
- Thriving 14 year olds able to participate in the life of the city.

4.2 The plan also incorporates a set of values:

- Delivering high quality, cost effective services
- Civic pride and local democracy
- Sustainability
- Inclusivity
- Working in partnership

These are the principles and beliefs that underpin all of the council's activities. For each one the council has strategies and procedures in place to ensure that these values drive the work of the council. Through a range of mechanisms continual efforts are made to embed these in the council's culture and ways of working so that the services we deliver and our leadership to the city reflects them.

4.3 Against each of the four priorities in the plan there are a set of 'key deliverables' and milestones for tracking progress in achieving them. These 'key deliverables' are those things which the council must achieve under each of the priority themes because they will make a significant difference to local people. In all cases the council is already committed to these 'key deliverables', often in partnership with other organisations. However, for the first time the council is publishing its targets against them for the next four years. This increases the accountability of the council to the public and provides auditors and inspectors with evidence that we are planning over a medium term. The 'key deliverables' is a fairly short, but nevertheless very challenging, list which can be monitored easily on an annual basis to track progress (see section 6 below)

4.4 The plan does not cover all the functions of the council, but focuses on the critical issues that the council must work on as the leader of its community. It does not therefore generally cover policy development or service enhancement. It is intentionally a brief document as it is an over-arching strategic plan which will guide the work of the council and the much more detailed plans which will sit below it (i.e. the Performance Plan (BVPP), Directorate Development Plans (DDPs) and Team Plans).

5. Timetable for decision making

5.1 If agreed by the Policy & Resources Committee the Corporate Plan will be presented to full Council on 11 March for final approval. The Corporate Plan is one of a number of policy framework documents reserved to full Council under the constitution.

6. Performance management

6.1 The key deliverables in the plan will be monitored and progress against them will be reported to councillors and the public in the annual Performance Plan. The plan will be reviewed, along with the financial strategy, between July and October every year. These reviews will check that the plan still reflects the key local and national priorities and the plan will be amended accordingly.

7. Consultation

7.1 All party leaders have been consulted on their views during the compilation of the Corporate Plan.

Contact Officer: Maggie Squire
Head of Performance, Strategy & Governance. ☎ 1080

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Wards affected	All

Financial implications

Financing the 'key deliverables' contained in the Corporate Plan will require resource prioritisation by the City Council over the medium term. The Medium Term Financial Strategy, which is a complementary document to the Corporate Plan and is also on this agenda, sets out the City Council's expected financial position over the medium term and the strategy required for the 'key deliverables' to be achieved.

Finance officer consulted: Mark Pearson. 21 October 2003.

Legal implications

There is no legal requirement to produce a Corporate Plan though it is regarded as part of the Performance Management Framework. Having a Corporate Plan will also assist in the assessment of our corporate governance arrangements as part of future Comprehensive Performance Assessments.

Lawyer consulted: Dianne Bates. 21 October 2003.

Corporate/Citywide implications

This report presents the council's Corporate Plan 2003-2007 which will provide the strategic umbrella for the council's other plans and strategies. The plan has to be presented to full council for approval.

Risk assessment

In producing the Corporate Plan the council's key corporate risks have been taken into account.

Sustainability implications

The Corporate Plan includes the council's values - sustainability is one of them. The plan should therefore provide a foundation for the mainstreaming of sustainability into all the council's work.

Equalities implications

The Corporate Plan includes the council's values - inclusivity is one of them. The plan should therefore provide a foundation for the mainstreaming of equalities into all the council's work.

Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder

At a strategic level the Corporate Plan will assist the council to stay focused on its aim of improving community safety.

Background papers

None were used in the production of this report.

Contact Officer

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