

Subject:	Brighton & Hove City Council Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015-2019		
Date of Meeting:	26 March 2015 19 March 2015, Policy & Resources Committee		
Report of:	Chief Executive		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Matthew Wragg	Tel: 29-3944
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Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 The Corporate Plan is part of the council's policy framework. The Corporate Plan 2015-19 sets the overall direction for the council over the coming four years, describing our purpose as the local authority for the city. It also sets out our vision, principles and priorities, which are shared with Brighton & Hove Connected (the city's public, community and private sector partnership).
- 1.2 The council's Budget (2015/16) and new Directorate Plans have been developed with the Corporate Plan and the Medium Term Financial Strategy. This aligns our purpose, principles and priorities with strategic investment in services, addressing the severe financial challenges facing the council and how these will be met through modernisation and prioritisation.
- 1.3 A draft version of this Corporate Plan was approved by Policy & Resources Committee on 04 December 2014. It was recommended that the final version of the Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015-19 be referred back to Policy & Resources Committee, after Budget Council in February 2015, for consideration. The Corporate Plan would be referred to Council for approval.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Policy & Resources Committee:
 - (i) Approve the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015-19 set out in Appendix 2.
 - (ii) Consider the Corporate Plan 2015- 2019 set out in Appendix 1 and recommend it with or without amendment to Council for approval.
- 2.2 That Council approve the final version of the Corporate Plan 2015-19.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Corporate Plan is part of the council's policy framework. The Corporate Plan 2015-19 sets the overall direction for the council over the coming four years, describing our purpose as the local authority for the city.

Our purpose is to provide strong civic leadership for the wellbeing and aspiration of Brighton & Hove.

We will be successful if we are judged to deliver:

A good life

Ensuring a city for all ages, inclusive of everyone and protecting the most vulnerable.

A well run city

Keeping the city safe, clean, moving and connected.

A vibrant economy

Promoting a world class economy with a local workforce to match.

A modern council

Providing open civic leadership and effective public services.

- 3.2 It also sets out our vision, principles and priorities, which are shared with Brighton & Hove Connected (the city's public, community and private sector partnership).

Our vision

Brighton & Hove – the connected city. Creative, dynamic, inclusive and caring. A fantastic place to live, work and visit.

Our principles

- Public accountability
- Citizen focussed
- Increasing equality
- Active citizenship

Our priorities

- Economy, jobs & housing
- Children & young people
- Health & wellbeing
- Community safety & resilience
- Environmental sustainability

- 3.3 The council's Budget (2015/16) and new Directorate Plans have been developed with the Corporate Plan and the Medium Term Financial Strategy. This aligns our purpose, principles and priorities with strategic investment in services,

addressing the severe financial challenges facing the council and how these will be met through modernisation and prioritisation.

3.4 The Corporate Plan is a key part of the council's budget and business planning process. New, directorate level plans will be produced annually to support delivery of the Corporate Plan 2015-19.

3.5 The stages of the budget and business planning process are as follows:

Plan/strategy	Month
Brighton & Hove – the connected city (Brighton & Hove Connected, the Sustainable community strategy)	3 yearly
Brighton & Hove City Council Budget	February (Annual)
Corporate Plan 2015-19	March 2015 (4 yearly)
Directorate Plans	March (Annual)
Service plans (Corporate Management Team level or service level, at Director discretion)	March (Annual)
Individual staff performance and development plans	April (Annual & mid year review)

3.6 Progress against the plan will be monitored through the council's Performance and Risk Management Framework, including 6 monthly performance updates to Policy & Resources Committee.

3.7 Resident/customer satisfaction measures, such as the City Tracker survey (an annual perceptions survey of 1000 residents about the city, council and other public services), will also be used to monitor delivery of the Corporate Plan.

3.8 A draft version of this Corporate Plan was approved by Policy & Resources Committee on 04 December 2014. It was recommended that the final version of the Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015-19 be referred back to Policy & Resources Committee, after Budget Council in February 2015, for consideration. The Corporate Plan would be referred to Council for approval.

3.9 Comments received on the plan since December Policy & Resources Committee have been reflected in the production of the final version of the Corporate Plan. This updates the wording and presentation of purpose, principles and priorities, as laid out in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2, above.

3.10 While the Medium Term Financial Strategy shows that there is a significant budget gap to address over the next 5 years, amounting to £102 million, it also shows that the council's General Fund budget will continue to provide gross service spending in excess of £300 million each year.

3.11 The focus of the Medium Term Financial Strategy is therefore on where this substantial revenue spending will continue to be invested to provide essential public services and support the business and visitor economies

- 3.12 This is supported by a 10 year Capital Strategy that will identify capital schemes to support Corporate Plan priorities and show the associated resource projections and gaps that will need to be addressed through government grants, funding bids, financing strategies and/or public private partnerships (PPPs).
- 3.13 The Medium Term Financial Strategy sets out the resource projections for the period including taxation revenues. Council Tax levels are a matter for local decision and may therefore vary throughout the period of the strategy
- 3.14 For the purposes of projecting revenue resources, the Medium Term Financial Strategy therefore assumes the highest level of resources available from Council Tax each year without triggering a referendum.
- 3.15 The Medium Term Financial Strategy has been revised from the previous draft presented to Policy & Resources Committee to take into account the Local Government Financial Settlement announced in February along with the budget agreed at Budget Council and this has altered some of the resource projections.
- 3.16 The MTFFS includes a revised capital programme which was approved at Budget Council and incorporated changes agreed in the Targeted Budget Management (TBM) Month 9.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Corporate Plan is part of the council's policy framework. Based on previous plans the intention for 2015-19 is to provide a more concise plan with a clearer focus on the council's purpose, service modernisation and prioritisation to meet the challenges ahead.
- 4.2 This is aligned to city principles and priorities agreed in the Sustainable community strategy. Specific options for areas of investment identified in the plan will be developed, with partners and city partnerships, to ensure the best use of overall community, public and private sector resources in the city.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy were presented together in draft to Policy & Resources Committee in December 2014 to consult committee at an earlier stage in their joint development, along with 2015/16 budget proposals.
- 5.2 Comments received on the plan since December Policy & Resources Committee have been reflected in the production of the final version of the Corporate Plan. Consultation on the budget and any subsequent changes to budget proposals has influenced investment areas identified in the Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Policy & Resources Committee are recommended to approve the Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015-19.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The Corporate Plan 2015-19 and Medium Term Financial Strategy set the context within which the budget setting process for 2015/16 has been undertaken. The investment plans were therefore reflected in the 2015/16 budget proposals and draft Medium Term Financial Strategy to ensure that spending priorities are aligned with the plan. Monitoring progress against performance measures is a key element of the Performance and Risk Management Framework; any financial risks or resource requirements identified as a result will be considered in budget monitoring and in developing future years' budgets.

Finance Officer Consulted: James Hengeveld *Date: 10/03/15*

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 Policy & Resources Committee has responsibility for formulating the Corporate Plan, whereas formal approval of the final version is a matter reserved to full Council.
- 7.3 Policy & Resources Committee has authority to agree the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Lawyer Consulted: Oliver Dixon *Date: 27/02/15*

Equalities Implications:

- 7.4 Equalities implications are described in the plan under the principle of Increasing equality. Areas of investment identified in the plan, as well as consideration of tough decisions ahead, will be subject to Equalities Impact Assessments as subsequent budget proposals are brought forward during the course of the plan.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.5 Sustainability implications are described in the plan under the priority Environmental Sustainability.

Any Other Significant Implications:

Crime and Disorder Implications

- 7.6 Crime and disorder implications are described in the plan under the priority *Community Safety & Resilience*.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications

- 7.7 Progress against the plan will be monitored through the council's Performance and Risk Management Framework.

Public Health Implications

- 7.8 Public health implications are described in the plan under the priority *Health & Wellbeing*.

Corporate / Citywide Implications

- 7.9 The Corporate Plans sets out the overall vision, purpose, principles and priorities for the council which are aligned to the city's Sustainable Community Strategy.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. 'The way ahead', Brighton & Hove City Council Corporate Plan 2015-19
2. Brighton & Hove City Council Medium Term Financial Strategy 2015-19

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. None

Background Documents

1. [Brighton & Hove – the Connected City](#) (the Sustainable community strategy for Brighton & Hove)