

PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 5 JULY 2018

CORPORATE PLAN 2018-2021

Report by the Chief Executive

Introduction

1. The Corporate Plan sets out the County Council's overarching strategy for the period 2018-2021. It states our updated vision for 'thriving communities' in Oxfordshire and describes the council's main priorities and the specific actions that will be taken in the period to March 2019.
2. A draft of the Corporate Plan was considered by County Council on 13th February 2018, and a motion agreed that the plan should be reconsidered prior to a further meeting of Council. Following this a cross-party Working Group met to debate, steer, shape and finalise the Corporate Plan 2018-2021.
3. This paper provides the background to the draft Corporate Plan 2018-2021, which is provided in ANNEX A, and recommends that members consider the plan ahead of its presentation for agreement by Council on 10 July.

Background

4. In October 2017 the Council published a short, public-facing document (the 'prospectus') which summarises the council's vision and priorities; this document has been widely distributed and has been positively received.
5. The Corporate Plan 2018- 2021 expands on the messages in the prospectus, drawing together our vision, values, challenges we face and the key areas of focus for the current year.
6. The intended audience for the Plan is Councillors, staff, partners, inspectors and residents with a specific interest. It is intended to be a predominantly web-based document, linking to more detailed information about specific elements in the Plan.

Response to Council comments on the plan

7. Councillors expressed views that the corporate plan should be shorter and more focused, with greater emphasis on future plans and how these will be achieved. Councillors also wished to see the full detail of how progress will be measured through priority outcomes, indicators and measures. This information is in ANNEX B of this report (the 'Outcomes Framework').

Finalising the Corporate Plan

8. The Corporate Plan is a key document for the council, building on and aligning closely with the messages in the prospectus document. Together they set the future strategic direction and how this will be achieved.
9. Council recommended in February that the Plan was brought back to Council in March. However, to ensure Councillors could be fully involved in shaping and finalising Plan, Cabinet agreed on the 27th of February that more time was taken to complete the work.
10. To finalise the Plan, a Councillor Working Group was established with cross-party representation. This Group had eight members in total (four Conservative, two Labour, two Liberal Democrat) and it met four times, with cross-party representatives at each meeting. Draft content, material and questions were circulated to all members of the Group in advance of each meeting to provide opportunities to feed in views at each stage.
11. The Group made agreements at each meeting which were recorded and used to shape further iterations of the Plan which is now attached at ANNEX A.
12. The document in ANNEX A has been presented in a way that is indicative of the format and flow that the final document will have. Following Cabinet agreement, the document is now being designed ahead of Council in July, in line with the existing 'Thriving Communities' branding. Such branding has been used in the publication of the prospectus, Council Tax leaflet and promotional posters.
13. The priority outcomes and indicators for this Plan (set out in ANNEX B) were discussed by the Corporate Plan Working Group, by Performance Scrutiny Committee at its 24 May meeting, and by Cabinet on 19 June. Members' input has supported the selection and refinement of the detailed measures which are also set out in ANNEX B. Together as the 'Outcomes Framework', they will be used to monitor and manage our performance against the Corporate Plan.
14. The outcomes and key indicators reflect the Corporate Plan and will show how we will know OCC is making a difference. Some are within the Council's control, while others are areas which the Council seeks to influence. The more detailed measures which sit below are not formally part of the Corporate Plan but enable us to measure progress towards the Plan's indicators and outcomes.
15. Quarterly business management reports will focus on progress towards the outcomes and indicators in the Outcomes Framework, with details drawn out from the measures where this aids understanding of performance. It is intended that Performance Scrutiny Committee will continue to use the quarterly reports as at present.

Financial and Staff Implications

16. There are no direct financial or staffing impacts that have been identified as part of this Plan. Actions required to deliver the Plan have been identified to be in line with the staffing and budget available, as determined through the service and resource planning process.

Equalities Implications

17. The Plan seeks to ensure that all residents are given equal opportunity, and looks to address inequalities where they exist. Where any of the actions involve changes to service or service delivery, they are considered as part of the specific proposals (e.g. through Service and Community Impact Assessments).

RECOMMENDATIONS

18. **The Committee is RECOMMENDED to:**
 - a) **consider the Corporate Plan, ahead of its presentation for agreement by Council on 10 July; and**
 - b) **provide any comments on the Outcomes Framework to strengthen its use in corporate performance reporting.**

PETER CLARK
Chief Executive

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