

# CABINET - 17 OCTOBER 2017

## WORKING TOWARDS A NEW CORPORATE PLAN 2018-21

### Report by Chief Executive

#### Introduction

1. Cabinet is asked to consider the approach and direction being taken in developing the council's new Corporate Plan (2018-21), and to approve the draft Corporate Plan prospectus (Annex A) for finalisation and design.

#### Background – Activity to Date

2. The current Corporate Plan covers the period 2016-20. Given significant change affecting the council since 2016, and the county council elections in May 2017, work has begun on developing a new Corporate Plan which reflects the council's strategy and priorities, articulates the council's renewed direction since May, and sets out a positive, ambitious and aspirational vision of the future.
3. The intention is that the existing Corporate Plan will be replaced by a new one that will be considered by council in February 2018, aligned with the process for Service and Resource Planning for 2018-19 and beyond. Prior to that a shorter, high-level prospectus will be published, setting out the council's new vision.
4. A members' Working Group was established in June 2017 to undertake this work. Chaired by the Deputy Leader, with cross party membership, the group has steered the scope, structure, tone and production method for the new plan. Further meetings of the Working Group will be held as this work progresses.

#### New Corporate Plan – Structure and Content

5. The structure of the new plan has evolved over time. The working group is keen that a brief, accessible and visual prospectus is developed immediately, to present the council's vision and priority areas of work. The intention is to provide all our audiences – external and internal – with a clear picture of what the council is about, and how and why our leadership, leverage and resources will be applied. This will make our work meaningful to local residents, businesses and communities, and the council's staff and partners, and will set out at a high level the approach to delivering the council's vision:

#### ***Thriving communities for everyone in Oxfordshire***

*To achieve our vision, we will listen to residents so we can continuously improve our services and provide value for money. Our priorities are:*

#### *Thriving communities*

- *We help people live safe, healthy lives and play an active part in their community*

- *We provide services that enhance the quality of life in our communities, and protect the local environment*

#### *Thriving people*

- *We strive to give every child a good start in life, and protect everyone from abuse and neglect*
- *We enable older and disabled people to live independently and care for those in greatest need*

#### *Thriving economy*

- *We support a thriving local economy by improving transport links to create jobs and homes for the future*

6. Importantly, the vision and ambitions for the new prospectus and corporate plan are informed by the council's recent survey to understand the views which Oxfordshire residents have of the council. For example, it is clear that residents' views can be positively affected by how effectively we communicate our work to them, and that the more we put our work in plain English and everyday terms, the better engagement we are likely to have with our audiences and customers.
7. On 5 October Cllr Hudspeth presented the previous draft of the prospectus to Performance Scrutiny Committee. The committee's discussion covered the approach, structure and proposed content of the prospectus, and Scrutiny members' comments have informed the revised prospectus presented to Cabinet.

### **Next Steps**

8. Subject to Cabinet's views, the content and design of the prospectus will be developed with a view to a final version being published in due course.
9. Over the autumn, a longer, more detailed Corporate Plan, supportive of internal business management, will be completed. This will benefit from being fully aligned with the Service & Resource Planning process, and will set out the details of how the council's vision will be achieved, and how progress towards that will be measured. This version will be put to full council for agreement in February 2018.

### **10. Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to:**

- (a) Comment on the attached draft prospectus;**
- (b) Approve the draft prospectus for finalisation and publication in consultation with the Deputy Leader and**
- (c) Note the approach being taken to develop the full new Corporate Plan, and suggest any matters for consideration by the Working Group.**

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