

TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE 22nd JUNE 2005

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE PERFORMANCE MANAGER

(This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Williams, Leader of the Council)

APPROVAL OF DRAFT CORPORATE STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE PLAN 2005-08

Executive Summary

The Council is required to produce an annual Performance Plan, which identifies its priorities for improvement, how weaknesses will be addressed and details its performance indicator results and targets.

The Council combines the Performance Plan with its Corporate Strategy 2005-08 to identify, in one place, all the strategic plans and improvement priorities of the Council.

The Review Board scrutinised the Plan and recommended approval at their meeting of 9th June 2005.

The Executive is requested to recommend approval to Full Council.

Due to the size of the document the draft Plan is being sent to Executive Members only. For other Members, a copy will be available in the Members Room and upon request.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To recommend approval to Council of the Corporate Strategy and Performance Plan 2005-08.

2. Background

- 2.1 It has been a requirement for councils to produce an annual Performance Plan since April 2000, in accordance with Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1999: Best Value and Performance Improvement.
- 2.2 The legislation provides guidelines on the content of Plans, which is revised frequently by Government. The current guidance is contained within ODPM Circular 03/2003, with further guidance issued as an addendum in February 2004.
- 2.3 The latest guidance reaffirms that Performance Plans should become the focus of authorities improvement planning, by articulating priorities for improvement, including how weaknesses will be addressed, opportunities exploited and better

outcomes delivered for local people. It should set targets for improved future performance.

- 2.4 In line with the Governments approach to delivering freedoms and flexibilities for better performing authorities, the Government has implemented a differentiated approach that reflects CPA categorisation. For authorities ranked as Excellent or Good the Government has reduced its requirements further. The Council has taken this into account in producing this years Plan.
- 2.5 The main audience of the Plan is officers, members, groups and organisations with an interest in the authority, the regulatory bodies and central government. Although the Plan is a public document, the public should not be viewed as the primary recipient. The publication deadline is 30th June each year.
- 2.6 We have again combined our Corporate Strategy and Performance Plan into one document, in line with best practice and External Auditor recommendation. The Council formed the original Corporate Strategy actions in the summer 2004, being approved by the Executive and Review Board at their meetings of 24th August and 12th October 2004 respectively. However, a small number of alterations have been made due to changing circumstances. These include publication of our CPA report, Prioritisation of Services in addressing our budget gap and the investigation of the Joint Venture proposals.
- 2.7 By combining the Corporate Strategy (CS) and Performance Plan (PP) we not only reduce duplication but also produce a more comprehensive document, which gives a much clearer understanding of the Council. The Plan shows the Council's:
 - Overall aim (CS)
 - Background to Corporate Themes and 4 Top Priorities (CS)
 - Achievements during the last 12 months (CS)
 - Plans for the next 3 years (CS/PP)
 - Improvement priorities and how we are addressing weaknesses (PP)
 - Performance summaries and targets for improved future performance (PP)
 - Details of performance against statutory and local pi's (PP)

3. Timetable

- 3.1 In preparing this final draft we have endeavoured to ensure that all significant matters have been included within our understanding and interpretation of the statutory guidance. In this regard the External Auditor has undertaken a brief review of its coverage prior to publication and is satisfied that it meets the main compliance criteria. A full audit will commence after publication.
- 3.2 The Review Board approved the Plan at their meeting of 9th June 2005.
- 3.3 As in previous years, Full Council will be asked to give retrospective approval after 30th June publication deadline.

4. Matters of Interest

- 4.1 Approximately 200 paper copies of the Plan will be distributed to Members, parish councils (on request), neighbouring councils, key partners, Council Managers and other interested staff. It will also be available to view at all Council information points, local libraries and via the Internet. In addition, electronic copies will be produced on CD Rom, as required. The Plan is usually highly regarded by external assessors and provides a good overview of the Council to interested parties, as reflected in its wide distribution.
- 4.2 The public are given a performance summary in the Booklet that was distributed with Council Tax and NNDR bills throughout March 2005. Performance Plans are provided to the public where they are requested, but this normally accounts for just a small number.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Production costs of the Plan are minimised, through desktop publishing, internal photocopying and binding. The CD Rom is also published internally. The cost is anticipated to be approximately £3 for a paper copy and £1 for a CD Rom.

6. Effect on Corporate Priorities

- 6.1 The Corporate Strategy and Performance Plan is the main document in delivering the Council's Corporate Priorities. It affects them all as it addresses the Council's priorities for action and improvement and sets targets for improved future performance.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 Members are asked to recommend approval of the Performance Plan to Full Council.

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