

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Executive - 7 December 2011

Refresh of Corporate Strategy – proposed way forward

Report of: Penny James, Chief Executive

(This matter is the responsibility of Leader/Executive Councillor John R Williams)

Executive Summary

This Report proposes that the existing Corporate Strategy and Priorities are rolled forward to the end of the Municipal Year, and that a new Strategy is adopted from May 2012 to May 2015, which reflects the Council's Vision, ambition and capacity to deliver.

1. Background

- 1.1 The original intent of the Budget Review Project was to deliver a balanced budget for Year One within a "no overall control" Council, and to deliver a Direction of Travel for Years 2 – 4.
- 1.2 The Project has been brought to an end, with budget setting for 2012/13 now following the traditional timetable. The content to date has been shaped by the work of the political groups, and the savings plans presented elsewhere on this Agenda are broadly based on political consensus.
- 1.3 The work of the Groups has also delivered some preliminary thoughts on areas of search for future budget setting rounds.

2. Proposed way forward

- 2.1 Budget setting for 2012/13 is being led by the current Corporate Strategy and Priorities. Members, in considering the High Level Principles that drove the Budget Priorities Project, did not seek to move away from any of the existing Priorities.

- 2.2 For future years beyond 2012/13, the environment for the Council is potentially tougher in terms of funding, capacity reductions and new risks (for example, from the Local Government Resource Review and Universal Credit changes). It is highly unlikely that the current Corporate Strategy and priorities will be able to be delivered in the same way, or to the same programme.
- 2.3 I am, therefore, suggesting that the Corporate Strategy be fundamentally reviewed in the New Year for adoption by the start of the new Municipal Year. The Strategy will need to be clear on the Council's Vision, Ambitions and Capacity for the future. Work will need to be undertaken with all members, key public and private sector partners, the public and staff.
- 2.4 The outcome of this work will be enshrined in the new Strategy. This new Corporate Strategy will then drive the Council and budget setting from 2012 to 2015.
- 2.5 A detailed process and timetable will be reported to Corporate Scrutiny in the New Year if this approach is acceptable.

3. Legal and Finance Comments

- 3.1 At this stage there are no comments from Legal or Finance.

4. Links to Corporate Aims

- 4.1 This report assumes that the current Corporate Aims will remain valid until the proposed review is completed.

5. Environmental and Community Safety Implications

- 5.1 This report assumes that the Council will continue to focus on Climate Change and Community Safety to broadly the same degree as it does now until the proposed review is completed.

6. Equalities Impact

- 6.1 Under the Public Sector Equality Duty, there is a requirement to carry out an analysis of the effects on equality of existing and new policies and practices. At this stage the impact of the review is unknown – but – an equalities impact assessment will be produced as part of the review.

7. Risk Management

7.1 At this stage no risk register has been developed. The review will integrate risk management into the process and report on any key risks arising from the review and its recommendations.

8. Partnership Implications

At this stage there are no partnership implications.

9. Recommendation

9.1 The Executive is recommended to approve the proposals to 'roll forward' the existing Corporate Strategy to May 2012, and to commence work on a new strategy for May 2012 onwards in the New Year.

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