

REPORT TO THE CRICKLADE & WOOTTON BASSETT AREA COMMITTEE		Report No.7
Date of Meeting	5 th December 2007	
Title of Report	Consultation on Transitional Corporate Plan 2008/09	
Link to Corporate Priorities	The report sets out revised priorities for the Council for 2008/09	
Public Report	Yes	

Summary of Report

This report sets out a draft Corporate Plan for 2008/09. The Plan will be transitional in light of the Government's intention to create a new unitary council for Wiltshire. The plan will clarify the Council's priorities for improvement and key actions for 2008/09 and will inform budget decisions until the vesting day of the new Wiltshire Council, which is likely to be 1 April 2009.

Comments are invited from organisations and individuals on the draft Transitional Corporate Plan, to ensure that views from the public and local communities are considered in setting the budget for 2008/09.

Officer Recommendations

That comments and views on the draft Transitional Corporate Plan and are provided to the Council by the end of December 2007, to inform the budget setting process for 2008/09.

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
Yes	None	Yes	None	Yes

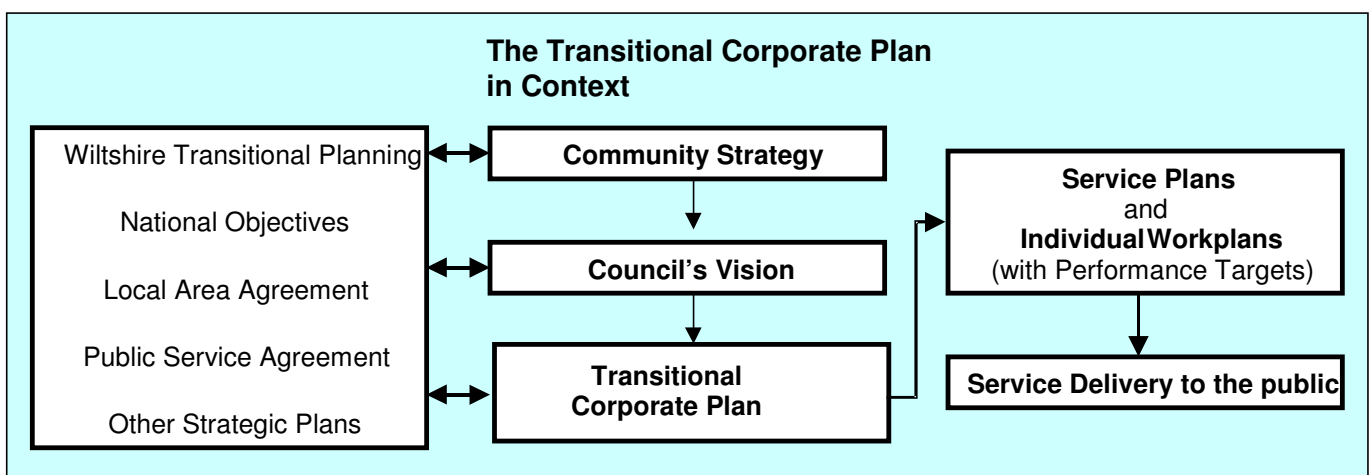
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1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Council's Corporate Plan normally takes a three year focus and is reviewed each year. The Central Government intention that there will be a new Unitary Authority for Wiltshire means North Wiltshire District Council will cease to exist from April 2009. The next Corporate Plan will therefore only set out plans for the last year of this Council, taking it over the transition period to the new authority. This Transitional Corporate Plan will:
- provide a sharp focus for resource and service planning for the Council over the next financial year.
 - Include a focus on three areas for improvement identified by the Council:
 - Cleansing & Amenities
 - Revenues & Benefits
 - Customer Focus
 - reflect and link to the North Wiltshire Community Strategy, the Wiltshire-wide Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement for Wiltshire.
- 1.2. The Corporate Plan drives the budget setting process for the Council and forms the basis for any budget consultation work with the public and local organisations and communities.
- 1.3. The purpose of bringing this report to the Area Committee is to invite comments and views that can be considered by the Council in developing its budget plans for 2008/09.

2. Background Information

- 2.1. The Government's intention to introduce a Unitary Authority for Wiltshire means there is a need to re-consider the Council's priorities for service planning, improvements and spending, refocusing priorities for the remaining lifetime of the District Council into a Transitional Corporate Plan for 2008/09.
- 2.2. The context for the Transitional Corporate Plan can be seen in the diagram below:



- 2.3 **A summary of the draft Transitional Corporate Plan 2008/09 is set out in Appendix 1. This is based on the draft Plan approved by the Council's Executive on 20 September 2007.**

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1. The development of the Transitional Corporate Plan for 2008/09 links with the budget process for 2008/09, ensuring that the Council's priorities drive the budget decisions.
- 3.2. In its last year of operation, the District Council will not be able to commit to major projects, or long term policy changes, that would impact on the finances of the new Wiltshire Council without agreement from the executive body that will oversee the establishment of the new Council.
- 3.3. However, the District Council will still seek to invest in community projects (such as through the use of Community Area grants) where these fit with local priorities and do not require increased staff resource from this authority to deliver. Any organisation seeking support for a community project is encouraged to talk to their local District Councillor in the first place, to ensure that proposals are able to be considered as the budget plans for 2008/09 are firmed up.

4. Community & Environmental Implications

- 4.1. The Transitional Corporate Plan for 2008/09 will have a significant impact upon the local Community as it will guide resource decisions for services and other work by the Council until April 2009.

5. Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 5.1. Equalities and Diversity should be an implicit value in the Council's work and underpins all of the priorities. Under the priority of Customers, there is a specific goal on Equality of Access, aiming to make it easier for all our customers to access our services.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1. The risks involved in not revising the Transitional Corporate Plan are that the Council does not succeed in focusing its resource planning (leading to inefficiencies) or in communicating its aims and priorities to staff, councillors and external stakeholders. Revising the Corporate Plan for 2008/09 allows the Council to focus on fewer, sharper priorities, with clear goals and actions that should reduce these risks.

Appendix:

- **Appendix 1: Summary of Transitional Corporate Plan**

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
Approved Corporate Plan 2007/10	Council, 22 February 2007	C94
Transitional Corporate Plan 2008/09	Executive, 20 September 2007	E66