

Cabinet

23 July 2013

Scrutiny of the Draft Business Plan 2013-17

Purpose

- 1 To report the outcome of the scrutiny of the draft Business Plan 2013-17 and the potential for further engagement.

Background

- 2 The preparation of the Business Plan was considered to be a key early activity of the new Council following the elections in May. Part of its preparation would involve making it subject to scrutiny in advance of formal consideration by Cabinet and adoption by full Council.

Scrutiny Engagement

- 3 The draft Plan was published on 18 June and all councillors notified. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee met on 25 June. The Chairman valued this early engagement and acknowledged the effort that had gone into its preparation. He supported the forwarding thinking and challenging nature of the Plan. He particularly highlighted the emphasis on systems thinking and innovation to deliver the Council's visions and goals.
- 4 He commented on the cross-referencing between the vision, priorities, goals, key outcomes, principles and actions and that perhaps the relationship between these might benefit from a clearer explanation at the beginning of the document.
- 5 The Leader provided a helpful introduction to the purpose and focus of the Plan and was congratulated on the forward thinking and challenging nature of the Plan's content. The Chairman acknowledged that an approach based on systems thinking and innovation, although relatively new concepts for local government, were very necessary if the Council's visions and goals were to be delivered. The Leader then referred to 12 deliverables that had been identified and asked that these also be made available to overview and scrutiny to inform its review.
- 6 A brief high-level discussion took place and the Management Committee decided that detailed scrutiny of the draft Business Plan be undertaken by the individual select committees. Consequently a round of urgent meetings of the select committees was arranged during the first week of July and the chairs and vice-chairs invited to meet on 8 July to co-ordinate the comments into one

report. The outcome of this exercise is set out in the Appendix. Minutes are also available of the meetings of the select committees.

- 7 The leading overview and scrutiny councillors were pleased to see engagement with overview and scrutiny as part of the planned development of the Business Plan. This has allowed for the review exercise to be undertaken in good time for the results to be made available to Cabinet for its meeting on 23 July.
- 8 The Appendix follows the layout of the Business Plan in providing responses. There are some general comments made at the beginning. Within each section the responses are divided into related comments and suggestions requiring consideration for possible amendment to the Plan.
- 9 Overview and scrutiny will be keen to see the response to its comments and suggestions. It is likely, due to comments from a variety of sources since publication of the first draft, that a revised version of the Business Plan will be submitted to Cabinet on 23 July.
- 10 The Chairman wanted to acknowledge the work done by overview and scrutiny in the development of the Business Plan and thanked all those who contributed to the positive experience.

Next Steps for Overview and Scrutiny

- 11 As confirmed by the Leader, approval of the Business Plan in September is just the starting position for the new Council. It is a living document that will grow and adjust overtime with formal annual review. Therefore overview and scrutiny will stay engaged and clearly the Business Plan will have a heavy influence on its work programme. The development of the individual service plans is also an area for input by overview and scrutiny. Discussion on these and other priorities will be discussed with individual Cabinet members.

Recommendation

- 12 To consider the comments made by overview and scrutiny on the draft Business Plan as set out in the Appendix to this report and respond accordingly.

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