

**Wiltshire Council**

**Cabinet**

**20 April 2010**

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**Subject: Report on the Corporate Plan - 2010-2014**

**Cabinet member: Councillor Jane Scott - Leader of the Council**

**Key Decision: Yes**

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**Executive summary**

This report presents the revised Corporate Plan taking account of changes requested at the last Cabinet meeting on 23 March 2010. It also includes the comments made from the Overview and Scrutiny Management and Resources Select Committee meeting on the 25 March 2010 for Cabinet consideration.

**Proposal**

That Cabinet:

Reviews the Corporate Plan, consider the points made by the Overview and Scrutiny Management and Resources Select Committee, and make any final amendments prior to the Plan being presented to Council on 18 May 2010 with a recommendation that the Plan be adopted.

**Reason for proposal**

1. All high performing organisations have a Corporate Plan or equivalent to direct and focus their work.
2. An ambitious and effective Corporate Plan will focus and galvanise the organisation's resources to deliver its strategic priorities during the next four years.
3. The new Corporate Plan is ready for approval by Cabinet and Full Council following further minor changes.

**Laurie Bell**  
**Service Director, Policy, Research and Communications**

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### **Purpose of report**

1. This report presents the council's Corporate Plan covering the period 2010-14. It has been updated to take account of comments made at the last Cabinet meeting on 23 March 2010. The plan has also been reviewed by the Overview and Scrutiny Organisation and Resources Select Committee at its meeting on 25 March and a number of points for Cabinet consideration have been made.

### **Background**

2. Cabinet has considered the Corporate Plan at two previous meetings in October 2009 and March 2010. At the last meeting Cabinet requested that the order of the priorities be changed so that those focusing on people are put first. The revised plan is attached at Appendix 1.
3. The nine re-ordered priorities are:
  - Focus on our customers and improve access to our services
  - Work in partnership to support vulnerable individuals and families
  - Local, open, honest decision-making
  - Increase opportunities to help young people achieve their potential
  - Support the local economy
  - Meet housing needs
  - Improve our roads and road safety
  - Reduce our environmental impact
  - Achieve savings, be more efficient and ensure we deliver value for money

4. The Budget and Performance Task Group and the Overview and Scrutiny Organisation and Resources Select Committee considered the Corporate Plan at their meetings in October 2009 and March 2010 respectively. At the meeting in March the Select Committee asked a number of questions and these together with responding comments are detailed in Appendix 2. These questions were asked either in the meeting itself or were raised in pre-meeting discussions. One specific request was to cross-reference the Corporate Plan with the LAW, LAA targets and CAA comments. This has already been done and the latest updated version is attached at Appendix 3 for information.

Cabinet is requested to review the question and points made in Appendix 2 and decide if any further changes are required to the Corporate Plan.

Overall, the Select Committee welcomed the Corporate Plan as the core document to take the council forward over the next four years. It appreciated how the plan had been developed over a period of time and the source documents used to inform it. However from a scrutiny perspective it was recognised that further detail would emerge from the departmental delivery plans and a new business plan for the council. Each of the four select committees will scrutinise the relevant extracts from these when available alongside the priorities from the Corporate Plan. Future scrutiny work programmes will be aligned to the priorities but with some flexibility to recognise that the plan and source documents will be subject to regular review.

5. The Corporate Plan is linked to the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). The MTFP was considered alongside the Corporate Plan at the last Cabinet meeting in March. Since then it has not been significantly changed and is therefore not included on the agenda for this Cabinet meeting.

### **Impact of Corporate Plan**

6. The Corporate Plan will have wide ranging implications for the council. It will affect all services and will require a 'can do' culture, inter-departmental working, and more effective partnership working if it is to be delivered successfully. Its impact against the standard report headings include:
  - Environmental impact: The importance of the protecting and enhancing the local environment is fully recognised in the plan, with one of the priorities focusing on reducing our environmental impact.
  - Equalities impact: The national equalities scheme for local government has been taken into account in the plan.
  - Risk assessment: An ineffective Corporate Plan has a number of risks which have been outlined previously. Managing risks will be an integral part of departmental delivery plans.
  - Financial implications: The corporate plan will have financial implications and strong links have been made to the MTFP to ensure the Plan is realistic and affordable. Funding is being identified in the MTFP specifically to finance the delivery of councillor priorities.

- Legal implications: There is no statutory requirement to produce a corporate plan. However, the Comprehensive Area Assessment and other inspections often use a corporate plan as a key piece of evidence to identify and understand the priorities set by the council.

### **Next steps**

7. Following Cabinet, any final changes will be made if required. It will then be submitted to Full Council on 18 May 2010 for final approval. The plan will then be reviewed and refreshed each year to assess overall progress against the priorities and to ensure its continued relevance.

**Laurie Bell**  
**Service Director Policy, Research and Communications**

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26 March 2010

### **Background papers**

None

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 Corporate Plan
- Appendix 2 Comments from Overview and Scrutiny Organisation and Resources Select Committee meeting 25 March 2010
- Appendix 3 Corporate Plan links to the LAW, LAA, and CAA