

# REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE

Report No. 7

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>20 September 2007</b>
<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Transitional Corporate Plan 2008/09</b>
<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Leader's Responsibilities</b>
Link to Corporate Priorities	The report sets out new priorities for the Council for the period until April 2009
Key Decision	Yes - The new Corporate Plan will guide resource decisions in the short term future
Executive Workplan Ref	B354
Public Report	Yes

## Summary of Report

This report sets out the latest position in producing a Transitional Corporate Plan for 2008/09. The Plan will be transitional in light of the Government's recent announcement to create a new unitary council for Wiltshire. It will clarify the Council's priorities for improvement and key actions for the next 12 –18 months.

It takes into account the views of Members as expressed at the Policy Day, which took place on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2007. The Transitional Corporate Plan will inform budget decisions for the remaining period of the current Corporate Plan until end March 2008 and then for 2008/09; i.e. until the vesting day of the new Wiltshire Unitary Authority, which is likely to be 1 April 2009.

## Officer Recommendations

**That the Executive recommend that the Transitional Corporate Plan be progressed and inform the budget setting process for 2008/09 as indicated in the report.**

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	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

<b>Contact Officer</b>	Laurie Bell, Deputy Chief Executive and Lachlan Robertson, Head of Policy and Performance: Tel: 01249 706532, lrobertson@northwilts.gov.uk
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## **1. Introduction**

1.1. The Council's Corporate Plan is reviewed each year. This year the Plan needs to have a mid-term Review as well as being re-cast for the period 2008/09. This is due to the Central Government decision that Wiltshire is to become a Unitary Authority thereby North Wiltshire District Council ceasing to exist at April 2009. The Transitional Corporate Plan needs to:

- take account of the emerging legislation and protocols in respect of the transition to a new Unitary Authority.
- take account of recommendations from the Members Policy Day as far as is reasonably practical; and
- provide a sharp focus for resource and service planning for the Council over the next 18 months.
  
- reflect work undertaken by the Executive and Corporate Management Board on medium term finance planning which highlights the costs versus performance on our key services. To implement improvement plans in the following service areas;
  - Cleansing & Amenities
  - Revenues & Benefits
  - Customer Focus
  
- reflect and link to the North Wiltshire Community Strategy, the emerging Wiltshire-wide Sustainable Community Strategy and the finalised Local Area Agreement for Wiltshire.

## **2. Options and Options Appraisal**

2.1. Option 1: To agree the draft Transitional Corporate Plan insofar as it is informed by the Members Policy Day held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2007 for consultation and draft budget planning purposes up to April 2009 as set out in Appendix 1. This is the preferred option.

2.2. Option 2: To suggest amendments to the Transitional Corporate Plan for draft budget planning purposes.

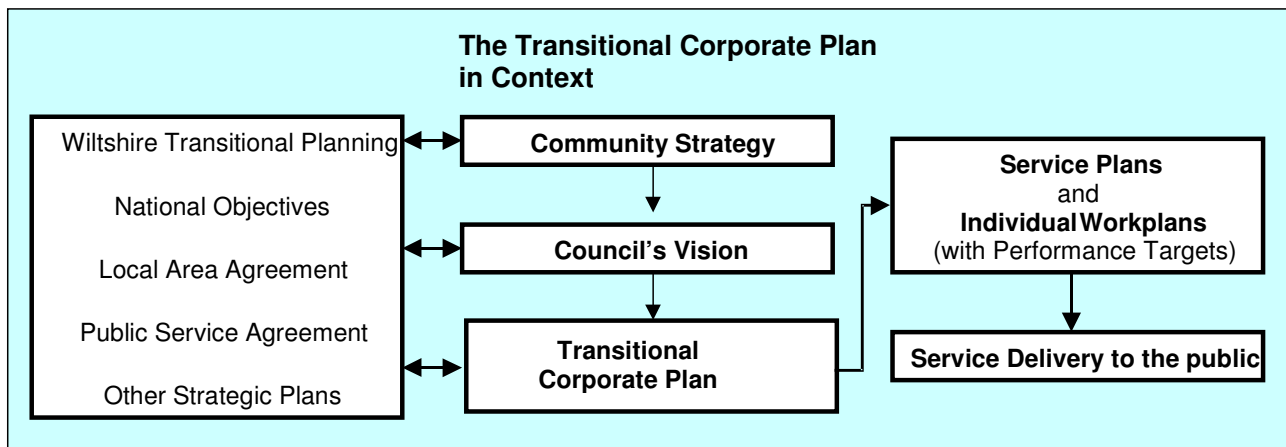
## **3. Background Information**

3.1. The Council's Corporate Plan normally takes a three-year focus, looking at what the Council aims to achieve in priority areas over the next three years. The Plan is normally rolled forward each year, so that key pledges (action areas) can be reviewed and added to as necessary.

3.2. The decision by Government to uphold the bid for Unitary status by Wiltshire County Council means that there is a need to re-consider the Council's priorities for service improvements, spending and service planning. Some of these decisions will be affected by the legislation that is likely to be confirmed this autumn.

3.3. A Member Policy Day was held on 6 September 2007 to consider the Council's existing corporate priorities, and review these in the light of the Unitary decision and the priorities of the new Council elected in May 2007.

- 3.4. The aim of the Policy Day, insofar as it dealt with corporate planning matters, was to review the Corporate Plan to:
- Identify clear priorities to provide a sharp focus for managers in service planning and the alignment of resource based upon the recommendations of the Corporate Management Board and the Executive.
  - Focus on main areas of improvement insofar as these can be achieved in the revised timescale.
  - Reflect the Member views from the Policy Day
- 3.5. The context for the Transitional Corporate Plan can be seen in the diagram below:



- 3.6. It is recommended that proposed Transitional Corporate Plan retains the existing vision and aim:

**Vision:** *Vibrant, diverse and healthy communities living in a clean and safe environment*

**Aim:** *Improving North Wiltshire*

- 3.7. The proposed Transitional Corporate Plan priorities, goals and pledges (actions) for 2008/09 are set out in Appendix 1. CMB and the Executive proposed that the Transitional Corporate Plan has three priority areas for improvement. These emerged from the scoping work led by the Finance Team on the relative Costs and Performance of the significant services we provide. The detailed work will be undertaken through the Budget and Medium Term Finance Planning processes. The priority areas are:

**1. Cleansing & Amenities**

**2. Revenue/Benefits**

**3. Customer Focus**

#### **4. Outcomes from the Policy Day**

- 4.1. Appendix 1 shows a collation of the views of Members from the Policy Day in a summarised form and include such views as would have an impact upon the present Corporate Plan.

4.2. The areas covered include the following.

- **Revenues /Benefits**
- **Cleansing & Amenities**
- **Customer Focus**
- **Economy**
- **Transport**
- **Culture/Healthy Lifestyles**
- **Environment**
- **NWDC Transition Team**

## **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1. The development of the Transitional Corporate Plan for 2008/09 links with the budget process for 2008/09 and beyond, ensuring that the Council's priorities drive the budget decisions.
- 5.2. As the general priorities are developed during the corporate planning process there may be a need for re-aligned budgets, resources, new funding made available, or agreed reductions in existing costs/services.
- 5.3. There will be a need to produce an updated Transitional Corporate Plan and to monitor its delivery closely in association with the Budget Monitor. It would be reasonable in the light of the fast changing circumstances in the transition to a new unitary council to produce a monthly Transition Plan monitoring report on the same basis as the Budget Monitor.

## **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1. The Corporate Plan is one of the key documents in the Council's policy framework and as such must be agreed by full Council.

## **7. Community & Environmental Implications**

- 7.1. The Transitional Corporate Plan for 2008/09 will have a significant impact upon the local Community, though it will be a facilitating document only for the much wider implementation of the decision to progress towards a Unitary Wiltshire Authority.

## **8. Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 8.1. Equalities and Diversity should be an implicit value in the Council's work and underpins all of the Council's priorities. Under the priority of Customers, there will be a specific goal on Equality of Access, aiming to make it easier for all our customers to access our services. The service plans will highlight work that needs to be undertaken on any outstanding Equality Impact Assessments.

## 9. Human Resources Implications

- 9.1. The Transitional Corporate Plan for 2008/09 will set out the Council's priorities for the next 18 months. The Council's draft Service Plans will progress over the next few months to ensure they link to the new Transitional Corporate Plan and that where possible resources can be aligned to ensure the priorities are delivered. There will be, in parts of the Council, a considerable impact upon staff and staffing resources.

## 10. Risk Analysis

- 10.1. 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, as is now in progress, allows the Council to focus on fewer, sharper priorities, with clear goals and outcome-focused pledges and actions and should mitigate these risks.

<b>Appendices:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Appendix 1: Notes from the Members Policy Day</b></li><li>• <b>Appendix 2: Draft Transitional Corporate Plan</b></li></ul>
<b>Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>As above</b></li></ul>

### Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

<b>Report</b>	<b>Committee &amp; Date</b>	<b>Minute Reference</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Approved Corporate Plan 2007/10</b></li></ul>	Executive, 8 February 2007	