

WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

ANNUAL COUNCIL

18 MAY 2010

REPORT ON THE CORPORATE PLAN 2010-2014

Executive summary

This report presents the Corporate Plan for the Council. It takes into account final changes requested by Cabinet at its last meeting on 20 April 2010.

The Corporate Plan includes nine priorities with associated outcomes which will provide the focus for the organisations work over the next four years. This means resources may be directed or redirected towards their achievement and the council will work through partnerships to maximise the success achieved.

Proposal

That Council approves the Corporate Plan 2010-2014.

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 now ready for approval by Council, as required by the policy framework which is set out in the constitution

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.

Background

2. The new Corporate Plan has been coordinated by the Policy and Communications Service with support from CLT, ELT and a working group of senior officers representing all departments. This has helped to ensure there is full engagement and commitment of all departments to the process. The involvement of councillors and other partner agencies has occurred at various points.
3. In preparing the plan, the working group took account of many influences but particularly the evidence and intelligence about Wiltshire, the financial pressures we are facing, the Local Agreement for Wiltshire (LAW) and the Local Area Agreement (LAA), the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), the corporate programme of projects, political priorities, and the promises made in the original LGR bid to government. Together they provided the framework for drafting the plan and setting out the challenges and priorities facing the Council.
4. Cabinet have considered the Corporate Plan at three meetings in October 2009, March and April 2010 and it has been substantially rewritten and updated to take account of the comments and feedback received. Overview and Scrutiny has also reviewed the plan at meetings in October 2009 and March 2010. It raised a number of detailed points and questions for Cabinet consideration.

Main considerations for the council

5. The Corporate Plan is attached at Appendix 1. The Plan sets down the vision, goals, priorities, and outcomes for the council. This full version is primarily directed at councillors and senior officers within the council. A short summary will also be produced for communication to staff, the public and partner audiences.
6. The plan clearly states to our customers, communities and stakeholders what the council is prioritising and why and where it will be allocating its resources to ensure the priorities are delivered and the goals and vision are realised. It provides a guide for councillors and officers to ensure that all decisions and activities support the effective achievement of the vision, goals and priorities. Our priorities are based on clear evidence of community needs and aspirations determined through robust research and local consultation.

7. This plan will now replace the First Year Plan 2009-10. However, the overarching vision and goals remain the same. The vision is to **create stronger and more resilient communities** with three key goals:
- **High quality, low cost, customer focused services**
 - **Local, open, honest decision making and,**
 - **Work together to support Wiltshire's communities**
8. The nine 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
9. Under each priority a small number of key outcomes have been identified to be achieved over the next four years.

Impact of Corporate Plan

10. 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

11. The plan, if approved by Council, will be communicated internally and externally to raise awareness of its importance and impact.
12. The plan will be reviewed and refreshed each year to assess overall progress against the priorities and to ensure its continued relevance. More detailed regular monitoring of the progress against the outcomes will also occur, and this will form a part of the normal performance management process of the council.
13. Key documents linked to the Corporate Plan include the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP), the Local Agreement for Wiltshire (including the Local Area Agreement), and a number of other corporate strategies. In addition, departmental delivery plans and a new council business plan will support the Corporate Plan.
14. The departmental delivery plans will provide the detail of how services will contribute to the achievement of the Corporate Plan priorities and outcomes listed. They will include detailed information on actions, success measures and targets, budgets, risks, timescales, responsible officers, and links to more detailed plans. These are currently in preparation and should be in place by end May-June and will be available on intranet.
15. The council business plan will set out how the organisation will be changed and reshaped to deliver the corporate plan vision, priorities and outcomes. This will include detailing how the council will use its resources – people, finances, and assets – to deliver first class services to the people of Wiltshire. This plan will be available by the end of the summer.

Laurie Bell
Service Director Policy, Research and Communications

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Background papers

None

Appendices

Appendix 1 Corporate Plan