

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

Committee	EXECUTIVE	Item 12	Page 1
Report Originator	Head of Corporate and Cultural Services	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i> A17/067	
Wards Affected	All	23 rd May 2018	
Title	CORPORATE PLAN 2018 - 2020		

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mark Dearing

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to:

- a. Outline the Corporate Plan's role in the overall process of planning and delivering services, including the context of the potential reform of public services;
- b. Present a draft Corporate Plan for Member's approval;
- c. Set out the process and timescale for the Plan's future development and approval.

2. INFORMATION

What is the Corporate Plan?

- 2.1 The Corporate Plan, attached in draft as **Appendix 1**, sets out the Council's high level vision, strategic objectives and key priorities for the future.
- 2.2 The Corporate Plan is a high level strategic document. It is supported by more detailed plans such as service plans, the plans of partners, such as the Kettering Futures Partnership, and other statutory plans. Its position in the planning hierarchy is illustrated diagrammatically in figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Corporate Planning Hierarchy



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- 2.3 The Corporate Plan has taken on many different guises in the past including Best Value Performance Plan, Corporate Improvement Plan and Annual Report and Improvement Plan. However, the purpose has essentially remained the same – to focus the future activity of the Council.
- 2.4 The last time the Council formally approved its vision, strategic aims and objectives was back in June 2010. At the time, the Council agreed a framework of aims and objectives that have pretty much remained unchanged and served the Council well. This framework has often been used as a reference point when writing service plans and for determining areas on which to report on performance to scrutiny committee.
- 2.5 As well as setting out what the Corporate Plan is, it is important that members understand what it is not. The intention of the Plan is not to be a ‘catch-all’ for everything important to the Council and its customers. Much of the Council’s day-to-day activities are outlined in operational documents such as the service plans. There will therefore, be many services and activities that are very important but not included within the Corporate Plan.

Reform of public sector services

- 2.6 Members will be fully aware of the Council’s position regarding the invitation from the Secretary of State ‘to submit a proposal for a single tier of local government in Northamptonshire’. The matter was debated at April’s meeting of Council and a unanimous resolution was recorded.
- 2.7 Given the potential for fundamental change in the way public services are structured, coupled with an immediate need to continue to do the job of providing services well, clarity of focus moving forward will be very important. It therefore seems an appropriate time to take stock of the Council’s vision, strategic objectives and key priorities.
- 2.8 The attached draft Corporate Plan aims to strike the right balance between the requirement to deliver high quality public services now and the need to help shape their delivery alongside those of our partners in the future.

Suggested next steps for the Corporate Plan

- 2.9 The process for approving the Corporate Plan is set out in the Council’s Constitution. The next steps and suggested timescale are provided in Figure 2 below.

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Figure 2: Next steps and suggested timescale for the Corporate Plan

Committee	When?	Why?
Executive	May	Approve the draft Corporate Plan and process for its adoption
Research & Development	June	Comment on the Plan
Executive	July	Consideration of comments from scrutiny committee
Council	July (at the earliest)	Formal adoption of the Corporate Plan

- 2.10 Once the Corporate Plan has been adopted at Council, a set of Service Plans will then be reported to the Research and Development Committee for comment and then to Executive Committee for approval. These will set out the more detailed plans for the Council moving ahead.

3. CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT

- 3.1 The Corporate Plan has been developed based on the Council's collective understanding of the issues facing the area. This understanding has been informed by a wide range of sources including debates at committee, an ongoing dialogue with elected members, discussions with partners, feedback from customers and staff, legislation and best practice.
- 3.2 Delivery of the Corporate Plan will have a significant impact on customers. The Council is keen to continue its track record of providing good quality, value for money services and ensure that any future local public service delivery arrangements have this aim at its very core.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Corporate Plan sets the vision, strategic objectives and priorities for the Council moving forward. It will therefore play an important role in helping maintain clarity of focus on the most important future policy and service development priorities of the Council.

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5. **FINANCIAL, LEGAL & HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The Corporate Plan contains priorities aimed at continuing to improve the value for money of services provided to the Council's customers. The priorities outlined within the plan are in line with the Council's budget. They also play an important role in delivering future savings through efficiency measures and new ways of working.
- 5.2 The Priorities set out within the plan will cascade through service plans into the individual objectives for staff. The work plan and resources available moving forward are tight. The focus of the Corporate Plan will be important in helping the Council's workforce deliver those services that matter the most.
- 5.3 The recent Investors in People (IIP) assessment found that a high proportion of staff had a good understanding of the Council's objectives. A refreshed Corporate Plan will help further develop this and ensure clarity of purpose in a time of significant change.

6. **RECOMMENDATION**

That members of the Committee:

- a. Note the Corporate Plan's role in the overall process of planning and delivering services, including the context of potential reform of public services;
- b. Approve on the content of the draft Corporate Plan;
- c. Approve the process and timescale for the Corporate Plan's future development and adoption by the Council.

Background Papers:

Title

Date

Contact Officer

Previous Minutes/Reports:

Ref:

Date: