

Cabinet Report



Report of Head of Corporate Strategy

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To: CABINET

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Corporate Plan 2016 - 2020

Recommendation

That Cabinet recommends that Council adopts the 2012 – 2016 corporate plan attached to this report.

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to approve the council's corporate plan for the period 2016 – 2020, and recommend its approval to Council.

Corporate Objectives

2. The development of the council's corporate plan is fundamental to the way that the council manages its business effectively. The purpose of the plan is to identify the strategic objectives and priorities, which will drive the council's business during a four year period and help to guide decisions on the allocation of resources. The draft corporate plan for the period 2016 - 2020 proposes a set of new objectives and priorities to replace those set out in the current corporate plan, which ends in 2016.

Background

3. In May 2015, the council began work on a fundamental review of the current corporate plan.
4. Evidence considered as part of the review includes results from recent biennial residents' surveys; demographic and other data about the district prepared by the District Data Service, recent board reports and the annual addendum report.

5. The attached represents the Cabinet's draft plan for the period 2016 – 2020.
6. The plan also includes the council's equality objectives, which we are required to publish under the Equality Act. These have been the subject of a stakeholder consultation. The objectives underpin all of the council's activities.
7. Subject to endorsement by Cabinet and final approval by Council on 11 May, the plan will be graphically designed prior to publication on the Council's website. Copies will be available on request to anyone who is unable to access it electronically.
8. The draft plan is on the agenda for Scrutiny Committee on 14 April, and the Committee's comments will be reported to the Cabinet meeting.
9. The plan is a high-level statement of objectives and actions that the Cabinet wishes to achieve over the next four years. Further detail, including measures, targets and specific actions will be included in a corporate development plan, which will be reviewed by Cabinet annually, and annual reports on progress will be provided to Cabinet.

Options

10. It is good practice for councils to publish a corporate plan to set out plans for future years. It helps to focus activity, and guides policy and operational decisions and allocation of resources over the life of the plan.
11. Many policy choices have been made during informal discussions on the draft plan. At this stage the plan is in draft, and Cabinet are able to make further amendments prior to recommending its adoption to full council.

Financial Implications

12. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report although the corporate plan will be used to guide decisions on the allocation of resources.
13. Funding for some of the activity set out in the draft plan has been approved as part of the 2016/17 budget, the financial implications of other specific actions or of progressing any of the ambitions contained in the plan will be considered as part of more detailed planning and consideration of future years' budgets.

Legal Implications

14. There are no legal implications arising from this report. Any legal implications connected with specific actions in the plan will be considered as part of detailed planning for implementation.

Risks

15. Risks will need to be identified specific to individual corporate priorities and included in the operational service area risk register. The key corporate risks arising from this report are reputational ones of demonstrating listening to feedback we received in the residents' survey and reflecting the views of residents in our plan; and of agreeing a final plan that we can deliver on.

Other implications

16. A high level equality impact check has been carried out on the draft plan and no adverse implications have been identified at this stage. Any potential equality implications in relation to specific actions will be considered where relevant as part of detailed planning for implementation.

Conclusion

17. We have carried out a major review of the corporate plan and developed a draft plan for 2016-2020 setting out new objectives and priorities for the next four years. The plan will provide a focus for the council's work and will also guide decisions on the allocation of resources.
18. Cabinet is asked to approve the corporate plan and recommend its adoption to Council.

Background Papers

- Vale Vision, Our Priorities for the Vale, conservative party manifesto
- Reports of biennial residents' surveys 2014, 2015
- Joint South and Vale board reports, and annual addendum report
- Vale of White Horse overview of evidence pack