

Scrutiny Committee

Report of Head of Corporate Strategy

Author: Emma Morris

Telephone: 01235 540352

Textphone: 18001 01235 540352

E-mail: emma.morris@southandvale.gov.uk

Executive member responsible: Matthew Barber

Tel: 01235 540366

E-mail: matthew.barber@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

To: Scrutiny committee

DATE: 24 November 2011

REPORT NO: 47/11

Corporate Plan 2012-2016

Recommendation

Scrutiny committee is invited to consider and comment on the strategic objectives, corporate priorities and success measures set out in the draft Vale of White Horse corporate plan for the period 2012 – 2016.

Purpose of Report

1. This report sets out the proposed strategic objectives and corporate priorities contained in the draft Vale of White Horse corporate plan for the period 2012-2016. It provides an opportunity for the scrutiny committee to consider and comment on these before the plan is finalised in February 2012.

Strategic 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 corporate 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 2012 – 2016 proposes a set of new objectives, priorities and measures of success to replace those set out in the current corporate plan, which ends on 31 March 2012.

Background

3. The council agreed its current corporate plan in 2009. Following the local elections in May 2011, the council began a review of the corporate plan to develop a new set of objectives, priorities and measures and has now completed a draft plan for the

period April 2012 to March 2016. In developing the draft plan we have involved many stakeholders through:

- two workshops with councillors
 - a workshop with residents
 - inviting views and comments from local councils
 - inviting views and comments from service teams via their heads of service, staff briefings and our staff newsletter.
4. The draft corporate plan, attached as **annex A** to the report, was published for consultation on Friday 14 October 2011 and the closing date for responses is 3 January 2012. We are carrying out consultation on the draft using a variety of methods:
- draft corporate plan and consultation questionnaire on the council's website
 - availability of draft corporate plan publicised through a press release, parish newsletter, newsletter to voluntary and community sector and grant recipients
 - draft corporate plan and questionnaire sent to equalities and disability panels
 - draft document and questionnaire sent to all towns and parishes and information provided at the town and parish forum
 - consultation workshop at the voluntary and community sector forum
 - consultation with key partners through the Vale Partnership.
5. The council will review progress against the plan annually, in the autumn, and may also agree minor changes to priorities and targets to ensure that the plan remains up-to-date and relevant. At the end of the four year period, the council will conduct another fundamental review of its objectives and priorities.

National and local context

6. The context within which the council is developing its new objectives and priorities has changed. New national legislation, particularly relating to neighbourhood planning and localising the delivery of services will have an impact upon the council's work and priorities, although it is not yet clear what this will be in detail. The corporate plan includes objectives and priorities which relate to neighbourhood plans and other initiatives contained within the Localism and Decentralisation Bill, and it is likely that as implementation of the legislation proceeds we will need to review priorities that relate to this to ensure that they remain relevant. The council will have the opportunity to review these annually.
7. Another significant change is that government has withdrawn the set of national indicators that local authorities and other public sector organisations were required to report against. It has also ended local area agreements (LAA). These required local authorities to agree with central government targets for up to 35 national indicators addressing issues that had been identified as priorities in sustainable community strategies. While the draft corporate plan continues to take account of

the priorities and targets in the Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse sustainable community strategies the council now has more flexibility in determining its targets and measures.

Strategic objectives and priorities

8. The draft strategic objectives for 2012-2016 are:

- excellent delivery of key services
- effective management of resources
- meeting housing need
- building the local economy
- support for communities.

9. As in the current corporate plan, for each strategic objective we have identified a number of priorities that the council will focus on during the life of the plan. However, we have adopted a different approach to how we set out these priorities in the new corporate plan by making a distinction between:

- priorities that the council will deliver directly
- priorities that the council will facilitate or work with partners to achieve.

10. This approach enables us to be clear about those priorities that are the direct responsibility of the council and those which the council will be seeking to influence but does not have direct control over. We can, therefore, set targets and measures that reflect the extent of the council's ability to influence outcomes.

Financial Implications

11. 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.

Legal Implications

12. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Risks

13. Risks will need to be identified specific to individual corporate priorities and included in the operational service area risk register.

Conclusion and next steps

14. We have carried out a major review of the corporate plan, and developed, in consultation with stakeholders, a draft plan for 2012-2016 setting out new objectives, priorities and measures. The plan will provide a focus for the council's work over the four year period and will also guide decisions on allocation of resources.

15. The draft plan is currently out for consultation, which ends on 3 January 2012. The committee is invited to comment on the current draft objectives, priorities and measures set out in the draft plan attached at **annex A**. Cabinet will consider consultation responses and finalise the corporate plan in February 2012, for adoption by Council.

Background Papers

- Vale of White Horse corporate plan 2009 -2012
- Oxfordshire 2030
- Vale of White Horse sustainable community strategy
- notes of consultation workshops with residents
- notes of consultation workshops with councillors
- corporate plan 2012 -2016 consultation questionnaire.