

# Cabinet Report



Report of Head of Corporate Strategy

Author: Emma Morris

Telephone: 01491 823612

Textphone: 18001 01491 823612

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

Wards affected: All

Cabinet member responsible: Matthew Barber

Tel: 01235 520202

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

To: CABINET

DATE: 10 February 2012

Report no. 70/11

## Vale of White Horse Corporate Plan 2012 -2016

### Recommendations

- (a) That Cabinet agree the proposed changes to the draft 2012-2016 corporate plan, set out in the report.
- (b) That the Head of Corporate Strategy is authorised to make any further minor editorial changes required in consultation with the Leader of the Council prior to final approval by Council.
- (c) That Cabinet recommend that Council adopts the 2012 – 2016 corporate plan contained in **Appendix B**

### Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to agree the council's corporate plan for the period 2012 to 2016.

### 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. In May 2011, the council began work on a fundamental review of the current corporate plan, which comes to an end on 31 March 2012. We involved many stakeholders in the development of a new draft corporate plan, including workshops with councillors and residents, and inviting comments from residents, local councils and staff.
4. We undertook formal consultation on the draft corporate plan between 14 October 2011 and 3 January 2012 using a range of methods including:
  - publicity through local media outlets
  - direct mail to local councils, disability equality panel and ethnicity panel
  - workshop at the voluntary sector forum in November 2011 and information about the consultation through a key local voluntary sector publication and website
  - articles in newsletters to local councils and an information stand at the town and parish council forum in November 2011
  - two discussions with scrutiny committee in November and December 2011 to enable the committee to make comments and observations on the draft
  - consultation with staff.
5. In addition to this formal consultation on the draft, the council also carried out a residents' panel survey using questionnaires and we have used the results of the survey to help to validate the priorities contained with the draft corporate plan.

## **Consultation results and amendments to the draft corporate plan**

6. Appendix A sets out responses we received to formal consultation on the draft plan. For each comment received we have provided a response and/or a proposed change to the draft plan.
  7. In addition to comments on specific priorities and measures, we also received general comments on the overall presentation of the plan. In particular, we were asked to make the plan easier to understand and provide more background and context for the objectives and priorities identified. We have,
-

therefore, included some explanatory text for each section of the corporate plan for Cabinet to consider.

8. In addition to general consultation, we held two discussion workshops with scrutiny committee in November and December 2011. In response to the comments made by scrutiny committee we have made the following amendments and revisions to the draft plan:
    - included a general introduction to the corporate plan including information about the council's partnership working and other key objectives and strategies
    - included an introduction to each section to provide additional information and explanation about why specific priorities and measures have been selected and what the council can do
    - reworded some priorities and measures to make them clearer, and added some new measures
    - reviewed and amended the priority relating to improving broadband provision in the section on building the local economy to better reflect the current partnership work and aims relating to broadband improvements across Oxfordshire and the Council's role as a partner in this larger project.
  9. We have used the results of the citizens' panel survey (December 2011) to provide further evidence about which services and issues are most important to residents. In the survey, the services ranked as the top five most important by residents were:
    - waste and recycling
    - keeping the area clean and litter free
    - reducing crime, fear of crime and antisocial behaviour
    - sports and leisure facilities
    - planning applications and enforcement.
  10. The top four services are all specific priorities within the draft corporate plan and targets are set for determining planning applications in the section on meeting housing need.
  11. The results of the formal consultation and the proposed changes in response to this are set out as follows:
    - **Appendix A** – a table of the key comments and suggestions received with a response and or proposed change
-

- **Appendix B** – a revised corporate plan, including new introductory and explanatory text for each section and with proposed changes to the priorities and measures incorporated and highlighted
12. Detailed actions for delivering the priorities within the corporate plan will be included in annual service plans.

## **Financial Implications**

13. 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**

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

## **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 the feedback we received and reflecting the views of residents in our plan; and of agreeing a final plan that we can deliver good performance on.

## **Conclusion**

16. 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. Following a formal consultation with many stakeholders we have proposed some amendments to the draft plan, set out in **Appendix B**, for Cabinet to consider. 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.
17. Cabinet is asked to finalise the corporate plan in February 2012, for adoption by Council when it meets on 22 February 2012

## **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
  - verbatim report of responses to formal consultation on draft corporate plan 2012-2016
  - report of Vale of White Horse citizens' panel survey, December 2011
  - corporate plan 2012 -2016 consultation questionnaire.
-