



**REPORT TO:** Council Meeting

**DATE OF MEETING:** 25<sup>th</sup> May 2006

**REPORT OF:** Assistant Chief Executive

**SUBJECT:** Progress on Preparation of Corporate Plan 2006/2009  
featuring Best Value Performance Plan 2006/2007

**ITEM NUMBER:** 17

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**1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Council of progress on this years Corporate Plan and for members to agree the content..
- 1.2 Members are recommended to:
1. Acknowledge progress made
  2. Support and agree the content of the plan produced so far and included as Appendix 1 (to follow)
  3. Delegate authority to the Assistant Chief Executive to make any required final changes to the plan and its presentation.

**2. CONSULTATION**

- 2.1 Corporate Management Team and Service Team Managers have been consulted on a draft Structure Document and the have been consulted on the report. Indeed service teams have been engaged in producing contributions on achievements, non achievements, performance and proposals. The plan incorporates the Best Value Performance Plan which by its very nature requires the collation of information which is subject to audit and inspection over a period of time. Work on the plan is still underway but is almost complete. As a result it is not possible to present to this Council a final version of the plan.
- 2.2 Progress was reported to the Executive on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2006. The Executive acknowledged progress to date, agreed the improvements to be made to this year's plan and agreed the content that had been produced so far.
- 2.3 The Resident's Survey and Tenant's Survey have been used to inform corporate priorities incorporated within the plan.

**3. CORPORATE PLAN AND PRIORITIES**

- 3.1 The subject of the report is the Councils Corporate Plan. This will feature the councils Best Value Performance Plan. The report is relevant to all the council's priorities. The results of the Resident's and Tenant's Survey, presented in a separate report to this Executive, do not suggest that the council ought to shift from the 7 priorities set out in last years plan. The Corporate Plan this year will therefore continue to focus on those priorities and identify achievements, non-achievements, performance and proposals against those existing priorities
- 3.2 The Corporate Plan will continue to be the councils strategic plan to achieve its vision which is **'Working together to achieve the needs of our communities'**

#### **4. IMPLICATIONS**

##### 4.1 Financial

There will be financial implications as a result of implementing the Corporate Plan. These will be addressed through the council's normal budget process. Any shift in council priorities as a result of our engagement with the community will need to be addressed in the next budget round. Proposals for improvement set out in the corporate plan will be built into individual services plans and managed at Directorate and Service Team level. One of the improvements the council needs to make is how it provided and evidences value for money across all services. The Corporate plan will highlight the approach to achieving this It is proposed that the plan will be produced professionally and as a result there will be a cost.. This ought to be secured through existing budgets.

##### 4.2 Legal

It is again proposed that the Corporate Plan will incorporate the Best Value Performance Plan for 2006/2007. In view of this it is important that the Plan follows the guidance in Circular 15/2006 which forms an Appendix to Circular 02/2004. This new circular was only published on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2006. In particular the plan must include:

- a brief summary of the authority's strategic objectives and priorities for improvement. This should reflect its corporate/ business planning processes and community strategy.
- arrangements for addressing the authority's improvement priorities, particularly the opportunities and weaknesses identified in CPA, and the outcomes that are expected to be achieved as a result.
- details of performance:
  - outturn performance over the past year on all Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs);
  - targets for the current year and subsequent 2 years for all BVPI's.
- a brief statement on contracts. The authority should state and certify that all individual contracts awarded during the past year which involve a transfer of staff comply, where applicable, with the requirements in the Code of Practice on Workforce Matters in Local Authority Service Contracts.

#### 4.3 Personnel

Human resource issues in relation to improvements set out in the corporate plan will be built into individual services plans and managed at Directorate and Service Team level

#### 4.4 Other Services

The Corporate Plan is by definition a corporate strategic approach to planning service delivery and effects all services. The plan continues to promote new ways of working and as a result of change there will be impacts on other services delivered within and outside the council. These impacts will need to be built into Risk Management Plans for all service Plans and will be taken into account in the risk assessment for the final Corporate Plan document.

#### 4.5 Diversity

Progress on Equality and Diversity is a key issue in respect of the report. The council is improving on equality and diversity issues. As part of the improvements to this years plan and in accord with the councils duties and responsibilities performance on equality and diversity is given more priority in the document The report has no implications on excluding any customer from accessing services delivered by the council.

#### 4.6 Risk

In respect of the Corporate Plan the biggest risk to the organisation is to fail to deliver the plan on the basis of community need. The principal risk to the authority from a best value point of view is failing to provide a comprehensive plan which meets the legal requirements of Best value Performance Plan and Performance Indicator guidance. Last years plan saw a major improvement in that the plan or any indicators were qualified. Processes are in hand to ensure that this particular risk is managed. The Plan itself has a section on risk.

#### 4.7 Crime and Disorder

It is not felt there are any specific implications of the report on Crime and Disorder. Crime remains a key issue for our community and its is not an issue the council can resolve on its own. Working in Partnership is one of the council's priorities and this is not proposed to change. The Corporate Plan will take into account recent discussion with the Police on joint action to take forward Neighbourhood policing as well as the work of the Crime Reduction. Partnership.

#### 4.8 Other Implications

The report does not relate to a key decision. It is considered that the information can be communicated to the community by in a number of ways including inclusion on the web –site and through media engagement and releases. A summary document will also be made available.

### **5. BACKGROUND, POSITION STATEMENT AND OPTION APPRAISAL**

5.1 The council produced its first Corporate Plan in June 2006 and this was well received. It is considered that this years plan is capable of being improved and it is intended to do so. The improvements include;

- Promoting the image of council better in terms of progress made with a focus on the future rather than the past and celebrating our successes more clearly from the outset of the plan;
- Making clear our commitment to customer engagement
- Improving the clarity of actions and outcomes so they are 'SMARTer' as a result of Audit Commission learning
- Ensuring clearer contribution of services to the corporate plan priorities
- Highlighting the equality and diversity performance to address equality plan responsibilities
- Improving the presentation of the Corporate Plan including visual representation of the councils performance and achievements over the last year

5.2 Appendix 1 will provide the final document although there may be a need for minor changes as a result of the process that needs to be followed from an audit point of view and the need for contributions from across the organisation.

5.3 The approach taken has been to maintain the priorities established last year. The Plan sets out achievements and new proposals against these priorities. The Plan responds to Best Value Performance Plan guidance positively.

## 6. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 Members are recommended to:

1. Acknowledge progress made
2. Support and agree the content of the plan produced so far and included as Appendix 1 (to follow)
3. Delegate authority to the Assistant Chief Executive to make any required final changes to the plan and its presentation..

## 7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS / DOCUMENTS REFERRED**

7.1 Chester-le-Street Corporate Plan 2005

7.2 Audit Commission Annual Audit Letter and Inspection Plan March 2006

7.3 Audit Commission Progress Assessment - Chester-le-Street District Council March 2006

7.4 ORPM Circular 05/2006 April 2006

**Ian Forster**

**Assistant Chief Executive**

**9<sup>th</sup> May 2006**

**Version 1.0**

**Ian Forster Tel 0191 3872130 e mail [IanForster@chester-le-street.gov.uk](mailto:IanForster@chester-le-street.gov.uk)**