

Item 7

ITEM NO

REPORT TO COUNCIL

30 June 2006

REPORT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE

All Portfolios

CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLANNING

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report sets out the arrangements that have been put in place to develop the Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for the period 2006/07 to 2008/09.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Council adopt the Corporate Plan 2006/07 to 2008/09 and Medium Term Financial Plan.

3 DEVELOPMENT OF THE CORPORATE PLANNING PROCESS 2006/07 TO 2008/09

Background

- 3.1 The Corporate Plan, which has replaced the Best Value Performance Plan, is the document by which the Council pulls together all its Best Value and Local Performance Indicators outturns, plus any additional newly created performance indicators. The Corporate Plan sets out the Council's Corporate Ambitions and the mechanisms (the actions and targets) at a service level by which these ambitions will be delivered, supported by the resources defined and prioritised within the MTFP
- 3.2 These documents need to be updated each year to:
- Reflect on progress made against the actions and targets/Pis.
 - Review appropriateness of these actions, targets and Pis.
 - Take account of newly emerging priorities.
 - Set new actions, targets and Pis in the light of these reviews.

Approach used to developing the Corporate Planning Process

- 3.3 In line with the approach used in previous years in developing the BVPP/Corporate Plan, a series of workshop sessions have been held during April and May with:
- Management Team, Heads of Service and senior managers from across the Council.
 - Members of all Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
 - Cabinet

Structure of the Corporate Plan

- 3.4 The Corporate Plan 2006/07 to 2008/09 outlines the linkages between the LSP Community Strategy and the Council, our corporate and performance management framework and details the priorities of the Council over the next three years. It is supported by a series of Delivery Plans, which focus on the Corporate Ambitions (Healthy, Prosperous, Attractive and Strong Communities) and the Council's Corporate Values. Each Delivery Plan provides detailed information on the progress the Council has made against the relevant ambition, outlines the key performance measures used by the Council to measure its 'direction of travel' towards the ambition and sets out a detailed delivery statement of the actions, tasks and targets the Council will undertake during the next three years.

3.5 Medium Term Financial Plan

The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) supports the Corporate Plan by setting out how available resources will be used to support achievement of Council ambitions and priorities. The MTFP sets out the overall financial position of the Council over the medium term and identifies the resources that can be made available to help achieve Council and community priorities as identified in the Corporate Plan and associated Delivery Plans.

- 3.6 Key national and local priorities which the Council needs to consider are identified and the financial position of each of the three main accounts (general fund, housing revenue account, capital) over the period 2006/07 to 2008/09 is shown. The MTFP also takes into account joint plans agreed with stakeholders and identifies our formal partnership working arrangements. Maintenance of a prudent level of reserves and the need to manage risks and contingencies in our financial position are also explained.
- 3.7 The MTFP is based on the principles of Efficiency, Investment and Improvement. The financial strategy is to maintain a sustainable budget position backed up by a prudent level of reserves. Achievements of efficiency savings to deal with spending pressures and identify resources for investment are key to the medium term financial strategy.

Communicating the Corporate Plan and MTFP

- 3.8 Copies of the draft Corporate Plan and supporting Delivery Plans and the MTFP have been available in the members room for consideration by all members of the Council.

These have also been made available electronically on the Councils intranet for personal access by members.

- 3.9 Copies of the approved Corporate Plan, along with its Delivery Plans will be made available on-line. Additionally, 100 professionally published copies of the Corporate Plan and MTFP will be prepared and circulated to the Audit Commission (who will also receive black and white copies of the Delivery Plans); all members of Council; neighbouring Durham local authorities; Government Office for the North East; other key stakeholders (LSP etc) and will be available on request.
- 3.10 In line with arrangements established following the publication of the 2005/06 Corporate Plan, an Annual Report will be prepared for circulation to key stakeholders. The Annual Report summarises the key achievements of the Council during the last twelve months and outlines the actions, tasks and targets the Council has set itself over the next three years to achieve its ambitions. The Annual Report also provides a summary of the Annual Accounts Statement 2005/06.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Printing costs incurred in producing the required copies can be met from existing resources.

5 CONSULTATIONS

- 5.1 The draft Corporate Plan has been prepared following detailed consultations with Management Team, Heads of Service and senior managers throughout the Council via a series of inclusive workshops. Each workshop addressed the four Ambitions of the Council and a further workshop was held addressing the Council's Corporate Values. Following these officer workshops, separate workshops were held with members of the three Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Cabinet to refine and review the results of the officer workshops and to prioritise the actions of the Council. The results of the full range of workshops have been incorporated into the Corporate Plan.
- 5.2 In relation to the MTFP, robust consultation is regularly held during the annual Budget Framework involving members and officers. External consultation is also held with council taxpayers and housing tenants when budget considerations are being made. This has proved extremely useful in identifying priorities over the medium term, particularly for investment purposes.

6 OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Links to Corporate Objectives/Values

- 6.1 The arrangements set out within this report contribute to the delivery of the Councils Corporate Ambitions through review and update of the Corporate Plan. The Plan takes account of progress during 2005/06, learning from external inspection and reflects the priorities across all services and maximises the contribution of services to achievement of the Corporate Ambitions of the Council.

Risk Management

- 6.2 The arrangements within this report will ensure that the Council's performance management framework is consistently applied and that focus is maintained on the delivery of the Ambitions of the Council.
- 6.3 The revised Corporate Plan ensures that:
- Service Plans are fully integrated into the Corporate Planning arrangements of the Council.
 - Performance measurement arrangements for achievement of Corporate Ambitions are strengthened and aligned to the achievement of the LSP Community Strategy vision.

Health & Safety

- 6.4 No additional implications have been identified

Equality & Diversity

- 6.5 No additional implications have been identified

Legal & Constitutional

- 6.6 No new implications have been identified

Other Material Considerations

- 6.7 Copies of the Corporate Plan will be made available electronically, via the Intranet and to all external stakeholders via the Internet. Additionally, an Annual Report will be prepared for key stakeholders and the community to ensure that the Corporate Plan is communicated effectively.
- 6.8 The structure and content of the Corporate Plan reflect the revised focus and approach for Comprehensive Performance Assessments. The emphasis for the revised CPA is on providing evidence of delivery against actions/targets, community involvement, value for money and equality and diversity issues.

7 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Importantly, the development of the 2006/07 Corporate Plan has incorporated the involvement of Overview and Scrutiny Committees in reviewing and commenting on the actions established within the officer workshops. The input of Overview and Scrutiny Committees has been developed as part of the corporate planning process and facilitates member involvement into the Corporate Plan at all levels of the Council. The results of the Overview and Scrutiny Member session was considered at Cabinet and incorporated into the draft Corporate Plan.

8 LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Sedgefield Borough Council Corporate Plan 2006/07 to 2008/09

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Wards:

ALL

Background Papers:

Corporate Plan 2005/06 to 2007/08

June 2005.

CPA – district council framework from 2006: Consultation document for Comprehensive Performance Assessment of district councils.

Audit Commission, April 2006

Examination by Statutory Officers

	Yes	Not Applicable
1. The report has been examined by the Councils Head of the Paid Service or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The content has been examined by the Councils S.151 Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The content has been examined by the Council's Monitoring Officer or his representative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The report has been approved by Management Team	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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