

Meeting: COUNCIL

Agenda Item:

Date: 25 June 2008

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**STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN 2008 TO 2013:
MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

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1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To consider the final draft of the Corporate Plan 2008 to 2013 - 'Making a Difference' (Appendix A).

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That Council agree the final draft of the Corporate Plan 2008 to 2013 - 'Making a Difference', as appended to this report.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Corporate Plan is a key document for the Council and needs to be considered as part of its policy planning and performance management framework.
- 3.2 The Corporate Plan provides the link between the National Agenda, the Sustainable Community Strategy and the action the Council will take to address priorities identified in the Community Strategy.
- 3.3 The framework of the Corporate Plan was agreed at Council on 3 October 2007.
- 3.4 A final draft of the Corporate Plan is attached to this report at Appendix A.
- 3.5 The ambitions and priorities set out what the Council wants to achieve to improve quality of life for the community. The priorities inform the Council's budget setting process and the focus of project work in service plans. Determination of any new projects identified in the Corporate Plan has been carried out in line with the methodology used to prioritise the Council's General Fund Revenue Budget for 2008/09 onwards as part of the exercise to close the current Revenue Budget Gap.

- 3.6 Officers met with Councillor Simon Speller and Councillor David Cullen on 7 February 2008, in their roles as Chair of Performance, Priorities and Improvement Group, and Scrutiny Overview Committee, to consider the content of the draft Corporate Plan. Their views have been incorporated into the final draft of the Plan.
- 3.7 Performance, Priorities and Improvement Group considered the content of the Plan at its meeting on 28 February 2008. their views have been incorporated into the final draft of the Plan.
- 3.8 The Corporate Plan was considered by Executive, at its meeting on 19 March 2008. Their views have been incorporated into the final draft of the Plan.
- 3.9 The Council's Vision and Values have been updated and consultation on the Values was carried out during March 2008. Definitions for the Values were developed using the information gained from this consultation (Appendix B).
- 3.10 The final version of the Plan will be designed for publication on the Council's website.

4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION AND OTHER OPTIONS

4.1 The Council's ambitions and priorities

- 4.1.1 The ambitions and priorities reflect the Local Government White Paper: Strong and Prosperous Communities published in October 2006.
- 4.1.2 The priorities link to themes and priorities agreed in the latest Stevenage Community Strategy, Stevenage 2021: our town - our future, and reflect the outcome of consultation with residents.
- 4.1.3 Heads of Service have been consulted to determine the focus and plans to deliver each priority. The content summarises the Council's planned activity for 2008/09 and future years, and the performance measures that will be used to measure progress and outcome.

4.2 The Values

- 4.2.1 The new Values reflect government thinking, as emphasised in the Local Government White Paper: Strong and Prosperous Communities. The White Paper set out new responsibilities for local authorities to give local citizens and communities a greater say over their lives, and focuses on councils delivering better and more efficient services by working with partners in new ways.
- 4.2.2 The Values show the Council's commitment to the community it serves by recognising the importance of:

- ***Putting People First***
- ***Delivering value for money*** services and
- ***Working together***, both as one organisation and in partnership with other agencies as appropriate.

4.2.3 Consultation on the Values was carried out with officers and trade unions during March 2008.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications

5.1.1 Implementation of the Corporate Plan will require investment by the Council. The priorities within the Corporate Plan will inform the Council's budget setting process and the focus of project work in service plans. Determination of any new projects identified in this strategy must be carried out in line with the methodology used to prioritise the Council's General Fund Revenue Budget for 2008/09 onwards as part of the exercise to close the current Revenue Budget Gap.

5.2 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications to the report recommendations.

5.3 Policy Implications

The Corporate Plan sets out the Council's change programme and forms part of the Council's policy framework.

5.4 Equal Opportunities Implications

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed for the final document.

5.5 Other Corporate Implications

The Corporate Plan impacts on all Council services and will be reflected in individual service plans.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Local Government White Paper: Strong and Prosperous Communities
- Sustainable Community Strategy: Stevenage 2021: Our town - our future
- Best Value Performance Plan 2006/07
- Corporate Performance Plan 2007/08
- BVPI User Survey results

APPENDICES

- Appendix A - Final draft Corporate Plan 2008 to 2013 (Attached)
- Appendix B - Values Definitions (Attached)