

Cabinet – 9 September 2015

Council Purpose and Priorities

Portfolio: Councillor Bird, Leader of the Council

Related portfolios: Councillor Arif, Shared Services and Procurement

Service: All

Wards: All

Key decision: No

Forward plan: No

1. Summary

Cabinet have been developing a new Corporate Plan alongside the Budget setting process, to set out their priorities for the next four years. It is anticipated that this plan will be presented to full Council for approval alongside the Budget in February 2016, following consultation and scrutiny. However in order to assist with in year planning for 2015-16, this report recommends that Cabinet ask Council to adopt their new, high level purpose and priorities to replace those previously agreed at Council in February 2015.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet recommend to Council the adoption of the high level purpose and priorities set out in the report, pending completion and approval of the full Corporate Plan alongside the budget setting process.

3. Report detail

- 3.1 The Local Government Act, 2000 gave the Council collective responsibility for approving its policy framework and budget. The Corporate Plan forms part of that policy framework and also informs the budget setting process.
- 3.2 Cabinet members in discussions with the Corporate Management Team have agreed that, in order to inform the 4 year budget, as part of the Resource Allocation Process, a new Corporate Plan should be developed. Whilst this will be done alongside the budget setting process, and be informed by this activity, it is important that it is led by a clear purpose and set of priorities. These have been drafted based on feedback from Cabinet members and will require Council approval in order to be adopted.

3.3 The proposed new Council Purpose is to

Improve lives and life chances for everyone who lives and works in the Borough of Walsall and in so doing-

Minimise the help that residents need from the state.

3.4 The proposed five priorities that will support this purpose are:

- Supporting business to thrive and supporting local people into work
- Improving Health and well being, including independence for older people and the protection of vulnerable people
- Creating Safe, Sustainable and Inclusive Communities
- Improving Safeguarding, Learning and the Life Chances for Children and Young People, raising aspirations
- Create a modern, dynamic and efficient workforce designed around what Residents need.

4. Council priorities

The report asks Council to agree a new set of priorities for the Council, as set out above.

5. Risk management

There are no significant risks associated with adopting these priorities, other than the risk to the Council's reputation if it fails to deliver. Effective risk management practice will be incorporated into the planning of projects and initiatives that will support the delivery of the plan and this helps mitigate any risk of failing to deliver.

6. Financial implications

The development of the plan will run alongside the budget setting process and as such activities needed in year to deliver it will be accounted for within the proposed budget. The Budget itself will be informed by the high level priorities set out in this report.

7. Legal implications

There is no legal requirement to publish a Corporate Plan though its adoption and implementation will help deliver a more robust governance framework.

8. Property implications

There are no direct property implications associated with the approval of either the purpose or priorities; however they will inform decisions on how to get the best use out of the Council's existing property portfolio, along with wider community and partner assets.

9. Health and wellbeing implications

Health and well-being is a clearly expressed priority. Development and delivery of the plan will help improve health and wellbeing outcomes for all Walsall people.

10. Staffing implications

The purpose and priorities expressed provide staff with a clear direction for what the Council is trying to achieve. This clarity is important for both governance and morale, providing a positive focus. One of the priorities is to 'Create a modern, dynamic and efficient workforce designed around what Residents need' this will aim to ensure that our workforce is fit for purpose as changes are made to what services the council delivers and how it delivers them.

11. Equality implications

As the Corporate Plan will be developed alongside the budget, the outcome of any equality impact assessments will be taken into account. There are no direct equality implications associated with the adoption of these high level priorities.

12. Consultation

As the Corporate Plan is developed it will be subject to consultation alongside the budget setting process.

Background papers

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Rory Borealis
Executive Director

1 September 2015



Councillor Bird
Leader of the Council

1 September 2015