
DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2016-18

Reason for the Report

1. To provide Members with an opportunity for early consideration of the draft *Corporate Plan 2016-18*, attached at **Appendix 1**. The Corporate Plan is programmed to be presented to Cabinet for approval in February, to refer to Council in March 2016.

Background

2. This early consideration of the draft Corporate Plan addresses an observation of the Committee following its scrutiny of the *2015 -17 Corporate Plan*, by presenting an opportunity to help inform development of the Plan. A further opportunity to consider the final draft for presentation to Cabinet will be afforded the Committee on 17 February 2016, alongside the 2016/17 budget proposals.
3. The Committee's role is twofold in considering the Corporate Plan:
 - Firstly, to scrutinise the overall structure and direction set out in the Corporate Plan and the process for its development, as the Council's key strategic document linking the outcomes set out in 'What Matters' Plan, Directorate Delivery Plans and individual officers' objectives.
 - Secondly, the Committee also has a role in scrutinising the linkages between the Corporate Plan and delivery of the specific services under its remit. The scope of today's scrutiny will focus on the first of those roles, as the second will be more effectively undertaken alongside budget proposals in February.

Issues

4. The draft *Corporate Plan 2016-18* sets out the aspirations for the Council for the next three years, identifying four priorities:
 - Better education and skills for all;
 - Supporting vulnerable people;
 - Creating more and better paid jobs;
 - Working together to transform services.

5. During agenda item 4, *What Matter's 2015 Review*, Members will be informed that the Cabinet's vision for Cardiff to become Europe's most liveable capital city will be achieved by the delivery of seven partnership outcomes captured in the Single Integrated Plan. The *Corporate Plan 2016-18* sets out Cardiff's contribution to delivering those seven outcomes.

6. The Committee was briefed on the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 at its December 2015 meeting, which identifies national well-being goals for Wales. Page 7 of the *Corporate Plan 2016-18* presents in table form how the Council's four priorities link both to Cardiff's seven outcomes and the seven Well-being goals.

7. Each of the Council's four priorities has three Improvement Objectives, and each Improvement Objective is determined by a set of commitments assigned to the lead Cabinet Member, and a set of targets by which progress will be measured.

Previous Scrutiny

8. Following its scrutiny of the *2015-17 draft Corporate Plan* in February 2015, the Committee made the following comments and recommendations that may be worthy of reflection in scrutinising the *2016-18 Corporate Plan*:
 - *The Corporate Plan be finalised and adopted in March rather than at its traditional February slot to enable Members to provide greater focus on the Plan, rather than it being subsumed within the wider Budget debate.*

- *Synergy between Corporate Plan and Budget Proposals: Members would be grateful for clarification on the way the Council's financial circumstances have shaped the thinking behind its policy priorities, so that this can be borne in mind for future scrutiny. While recognising that availability of resources will always be a factor in constraining an Administration's ambition, the Committee sees a Corporate Plan as a document driven fundamentally by political and organisational priorities, and the Budget as a companion document illustrating how those priorities will be put into practice.*
- *In terms of targets, Member's suggested that inclusion of an indication of achievement of the previous year's targets could be a useful addition to the Plan.*

Scope of the Scrutiny

9. This item will give the Committee the opportunity to make recommendations and observations that contribute to the final draft *Corporate Plan 2016- 18* before it is presented to Cabinet, and then to Full Council for approval. Members are invited to scrutinise the overall structure and direction set out in the Corporate Plan and the process for its development, as the Council's key strategic document linking the outcomes set out in 'What Matters' Plan, Directorate Delivery Plans and individual officers' objectives.
10. It will also allow the Committee to familiarise itself with the contents of the Corporate Plan in good time for budget scrutiny on 17 February 2016, when the Committee will use the final draft to test the Budget Proposals against the Cabinet's stated priorities.

Way Forward

11. The Leader of the Council, Councillor Phil Bale; the Chief Executive, Paul Orders; and the Head of Cabinet Office, Gareth Newell, will be in attendance to present the Plan and answer Members' questions.

Legal Implications

12. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

13. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

To review the draft Corporate Plan and agree any recommendations or comments for early consideration prior to the final draft returning to Committee alongside the budget proposals, prior to Cabinet and Full Council consideration.

MARIE ROSENTHAL
Director of Governance and Legal Services
6 January 2016