

CORPORATE PLAN 2020-23

LEADER (COUNCILLOR HUW THOMAS)

AGENDA ITEM: 1

Reason for this Report

1. To enable the Cabinet to consider the draft Corporate Plan 2020-23 and recommend it to Council for approval.

Background

2. The Corporate Plan forms part of the strategic policy framework set out in the Council's Constitution and is considered annually by the Council. The document outlines the organisation's strategic policy priorities and forms part of the required statutory improvement framework as it discharges the Council's current obligations under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 to publish a stage one plan, which sets out how the Council plans to achieve its priorities for improvement. The Plan also discharges the Council's responsibilities under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
3. In July 2017, the Cabinet approved a new policy programme for the next five years, entitled 'Capital Ambition', which sets out the Administration's principles, priorities and ambitions for the city. This includes the following four priorities, each of which contains a series of 'commitments for Cardiff' covering a wide-range of Council services:
 - **Working for Cardiff** – Making sure that all our citizens can contribute to, and benefit from, the city's success.
 - **Working for Wales** – A successful Wales needs a successful capital city.
 - **Working for the Future** – Managing the city's growth in a sustainable way.
 - **Working for Public Services** – Making sure our public services are delivered efficiently, effectively and sustainably in the face of the rising demand and reducing budgets.
4. On 23 January 2020, the Cabinet approved a refreshed Capital Ambition document, which provides an updated statement of the Administration's priorities and commitments for the remainder of the municipal term from January 2020 to May 2022. This has also provided an opportunity for the Administration to restate and reaffirm its values and ensure that the

Council can re-orientate itself to focus on the Administration's political priorities over the next two and a half years.

Issues

Corporate Priorities

5. To ensure that the Council's resources support the delivery of the Administration's priorities, as set out in the refreshed Capital Ambition document, a new Corporate Plan for 2020-23 has been developed in tandem with the process for setting the Council's budget for 2020/21. A copy of the draft Corporate Plan 2020-23 is attached as **Appendix A** to this report.
6. This has also been developed in the context of sustained and severe financial pressures within public services. In balancing the budget for 2020/21, savings of £9.764 million will be required. The Council faces an estimated budget gap of £73.4 million over the medium term from 2021/22 to 2024/25. This is in addition to almost £225 million in cumulative savings that have been made over the past 10 years.
7. The Corporate Plan 2020-23 will be supported by Directorate Delivery Plans, which will set out in greater detail how objectives will be delivered, as well as how directorate business will be taken forward. These key business planning documents will be supported by a significantly strengthened performance management framework.
8. Following approval, a copy of the Corporate Plan 2020-23 will be published on the Council's website by 1 April 2020 and, as in previous years, an interactive and more accessible version of the Corporate Plan that communicates the Council's priorities and objectives will also be provided.

Well-being Objectives

9. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places a duty on public bodies to carry out sustainable development which means that the Authority must set and publish well-being objectives, supported by a well-being statement, which make progress towards meeting the seven national well-being goals that are set out below:
 - A prosperous Wales
 - A resilient Wales
 - A healthier Wales
 - A more equal Wales
 - A Wales of cohesive communities
 - A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language
 - A globally responsible Wales
10. The Council must also act in accordance with the 'sustainable development principle' by embedding the following five ways of working:

- Long Term
 - Prevention
 - Integration
 - Collaboration
 - Involvement
11. The Corporate Plan 2020-23 has been developed in accordance with the statutory requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. It takes account of the Well-being Plan for Cardiff that has been developed by the Cardiff Public Services Board (PSB) in accordance with the statutory requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
 12. The Corporate Plan and the Well-being Plan are key documents in delivering Capital Ambition and translating the Administration's priorities into deliverable organisational objectives. The Corporate Plan focuses on the issues and services that the Council has prioritised and the Well-being Plan focuses on areas of collaborative advantage in the delivery of public services in the city.
 13. The Council must agree and publish Well-being Objectives that are designed to maximise the Council's contribution to achieving each of the seven national well-being goals. In accordance with the development of the draft Well-being Plan, Cardiff Council has adopted the same seven Well-being Objectives as the Cardiff PSB:
 - Cardiff is a great place to grow up
 - Cardiff is a great place to grow older
 - Supporting people out of poverty
 - Safe, confident and empowered communities
 - A capital city that works for Wales
 - Cardiff grows in a resilient way
 - Modernising and integrating our public services
 14. These Well-being Objectives demonstrate what public services in Cardiff want to achieve, reflect their shared aspirations and the common understanding of the challenges facing the city. The Council must also publish a 'statement' about its well-being objectives at the same time as the objectives are published. Both requirements are discharged through the Corporate Plan.
 15. An integrated corporate approach has been developed in order to combine the Council's Well-being and Improvement Objectives. This has been based on a comprehensive audit and self-assessment by directorates, which was undertaken to explore the extent to which the directorates contribute to each of the Well-being Goals, what more could be done and what further action could be taken to make progress towards the goals. Following on from this exercise, a number of steps or actions have been developed, supported by appropriate performance indicators, in order to measure progress.

16. Both the Council and the Cardiff PSB will measure progress towards achieving the Well-being Objectives using the same indicators of city performance. This will enable partners in Cardiff to keep track of how the city is performing and help demonstrate Cardiff's contribution towards achieving the Welsh Government's aims to improve well-being nationally.

Corporate Plan Development

Self-Assessment

17. Each directorate undertook a self-assessment of the steps and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) included in the Corporate Plan, drawing on the statutory Annual Well-being Assessment for 2018/19 that was approved by Council on 18 July 2019, Quarterly Performance Reports and any other relevant performance literature, such as reports of the Council's Scrutiny Committees or statutory regulators. This formed the basis for, where necessary, amending and updating the Corporate Plan.
18. The Corporate Plan 2020-23 includes a basket of performance measures with clear targets, which consist of Public Accountability Measures (PAMs), as well as "Local" indicators selected for their particular relevance to directorates. The Council will continue to recognise the importance of statutory indicators and respond to the demands of the external performance landscape; however, an emphasis will also be placed on selecting measures of success which are relevant for Cardiff.

Public Consultation

19. The development of the Corporate Plan 2020-23 has been informed by the findings of the annual Ask Cardiff survey and the budget consultation process for 2020/21.

Well-Being Objectives

20. Each individual Well-being Objective contained in the Corporate Plan has been the focus of a formal discussion between Cabinet Members and Directors with responsibility for delivery. This has allowed the political and managerial leadership of the Council to consider the progress made against the Well-being Objectives and to ensure the sustainable development principles of collaboration, integration and involvement – as identified by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 – characterised the approach. Each session was also attended by the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance, Modernisation & Performance to ensure that a clear corporate overview was provided.

Engagement with the Council's Scrutiny Committees

21. The KPIs and the proposed targets contained in the draft Corporate Plan 2020-23 were considered by the Policy Review and Performance Scrutiny Committee's Performance Panel on 12 February 2020, which was also attended by the Chairs of the other Scrutiny Committees. This session provided an opportunity for the proposed targets to be challenged and cross-scrutiny committee observations to be fed into the target setting

process ahead of formal pre-decision scrutiny of the draft Corporate Plan 2020-23 on 17-19 February 2020.

22. A copy of the draft version of the Corporate Plan 2020-23 and/or extracts detailing various steps and performance indicators relevant to each committee were considered formally by the Council's five Scrutiny Committees at meetings held on 17-19 February 2020. This enabled consideration of the draft Corporate Plan 2020-23 alongside the Cabinet's budget proposals for 2020/21. Copies of any letter(s) received from the Scrutiny Committees following those meetings are compiled within **Appendix B** to this report.

Delivery Framework

23. The new Capital Ambition document, which was approved by Cabinet on 23 January 2020, restates the Administration's priorities and forms a crucial part of the Council's policy and performance framework. The Corporate Plan 2020-23, and Directorate Delivery Plans, will translate the commitments set out in Capital Ambition into deliverable organisational objectives and will include more detailed delivery milestones, key performance measures and targets. The Corporate Plan 2020-23 has been developed alongside the Cabinet's budget proposals for 2020/21 and considered by all Scrutiny Committees, Cabinet and Council in February 2020.
24. A new delivery framework, strengthening the policy and performance arrangements will be brought forward for consideration by Cabinet in due course. The delivery framework will ensure that the corporate planning, performance monitoring and delivery arrangements are reconstituted to ensure the effective delivery of Capital Ambition and respond in full to the emerging new performance duty and self-assessment requirements, as set out in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill.
25. The strengthened delivery framework will also set out how the Council has embedded the Sustainable Development Principles, as set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act, within the organisation's planning, monitoring and decision making.

Directorate Delivery Plans

26. The "business as usual" and more service focused commitments will be included in Directorate Delivery Plans to be prepared by Quarter 1 2020/21. The Directorate Delivery Plans will continue to provide an important link between the Corporate Plan, the work of directorates and the objectives set for individual employees. Directorate Delivery Plans will also further integrate financial and service planning, more detailed action about progressing Corporate Plan well-being and improvement objectives, as well as details of other important activities not included in the Corporate Plan. A Balanced Scorecard approach is also intended to provide a sharper focus on the key issues.
27. In addition, Directorate Delivery Plans will provide clear lines of responsibility, increased accountability and be subject to effective

management challenge and scrutiny. This will ensure that team and individual employee objectives are aligned with Council's key strategic priorities. This will support the Council's continued drive to improve compliance with organisational performance management requirements, including Personal Reviews. In this way, the Council will maintain an overview and manage the key organisational functions of:

- identification and delivery of priorities;
- service and financial planning;
- timely performance management integrating financial and service performance; and
- objective setting for, and performance of, individual members of staff.

Reason for Recommendations

28. To enable the Corporate Plan 2020-23 to be considered by the Council on 27 February 2020 and published thereafter by 1 April 2020, subject to any consequential amendments that may be required.

Financial Implications

29. This report sets out the Council's Corporate Plan for the period up until 2023. Implementing these strategic priorities and improvement objectives are in accordance with the amounts set out in the 20 February 2020 Budget Report, which includes both revenue and capital budgets for 2020/21, the indicative Medium Term Financial Plan for the period up to 2024/25 and the indicative Capital Programme for the period up until 2024/25.
30. The plan clearly identifies the demand and financial pressures within which the Council is operating in terms of both revenue and capital budgets with associated impact on the level of borrowing. Some of the objectives contained in this report will be subject to further detailed reports which will be accompanied by a robust business case. The detailed reports and business cases will need to include sufficient financial detail in order to set out the full and robust financial implications, as well as be fully informed of associated risks with particular regard to likelihood and value of funding from external sources such as Welsh Government.

Legal Implications

31. As noted in the body of the report, the Corporate Plan outlines the Council's strategic policy priorities and its plans to achieve its priorities for improvement (in discharge of the statutory improvement duties set out under Part 1 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009). The Plan also fulfils the Council's statutory duties under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WBFG Act) with regard to the publication of Well-Being Objectives and a Well-Being Statement, as detailed in the body of the report. Decision makers must be satisfied that the Well-Being Objectives, as set out in the Corporate Plan, will contribute towards achievement of the statutory Well-Being Goals (listed in paragraph 9 of the report); and note that once the Well-Being Objectives have been set,

decision makers must have regard to the same, and must be satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken to meet those Objectives.

32. The duties imposed on the Council under the WBFG Act include a duty to act in accordance with the 'sustainable development principle', which is defined as meaning that the Council must act in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Put simply, this means that Council decision makers must take into account the impact of their decisions on people living their lives in Wales in the future. There are a number of factors which the Council must take into account in this regard, specifically, decision makers must:

- Look to the long term;
- Focus on prevention by understanding the root causes of problems;
- Deliver an integrated approach to achieving the seven well-being goals;
- Work in collaboration with others to find shared sustainable solutions; and
- Involve people from all sections of the community in the decisions which affect them.

33. Decision makers must be satisfied that the Council's formulation of the Corporate Plan is compliant with the sustainable development principle, having regard to the factors above. In considering the requirements of the WBFG, due regard must be given to the Statutory Guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers, which is accessible using the link below:

<http://gov.wales/topics/people-andcommunities/people/futuregenerations-act/statutory-guidance/?lang>

34. Effective consultation is required for lawful decision making on policy matters, and the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 and the WBFG Act impose express consultation requirements. The report sets out the consultation undertaken in fulfilment of the Council's duties in this regard.

35. In considering this matter, the Council must also have regard to its public sector duties under the Equality Act 2010. The Council's decisions must have due regard to the need to: (a) eliminate unlawful discrimination; (b) advance equality of opportunity; and (c) foster good relations on the basis of the protected characteristics defined in the Act. The protected characteristics are:

- Age
- Gender reassignment
- Sex
- Race – including ethnic or national origin, colour or nationality
- Disability
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Sexual orientation
- Religion or belief – including lack of belief.

36. The Corporate Plan is part of the Policy Framework, which is comprised of the key policies and strategies listed in Article 4.2 of the Constitution. The Cabinet is responsible for recommending any policy, plan or strategy which forms part of the Policy Framework, to full Council. The decision on whether to adopt the draft Corporate Plan is a matter for full Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is recommended to:

1. approve the Corporate Plan 2020-23 for consideration by Council on 27 February 2020;
2. recommend to Council that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make any consequential amendments to the Corporate Plan 2020-23 (Appendix A) following consideration by Council on 27 February 2020 and prior to publication by 1 April 2020

SENIOR RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	PAUL ORDERS Chief Executive
	14 February 2020

The following appendices are attached:

Appendix A: Corporate Plan 2020-23

Appendix B: Letter(s) received from Scrutiny Committees following consideration of the draft Corporate Plan 2020-23 (*to follow*)

The following background papers have been taken into account:

Capital Ambition (January 2020)