

CABINET MEETING

Agenda Item 26

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Corporate Plan: progress report
Date of Meeting: 11 June 2009
Report of: Acting Director of Strategy & Governance
Contact Officer: Name: Barbara Green Tel: 29-1081
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Key Decision: No
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

Note: The special circumstances for non-compliance with Council Procedure Rule 7, Access to Information Rule 5 and Section 100B (4) of the Local Government Act as amended (items not considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least five days in advance of the meeting) were that operational negotiations were deemed necessary up to and following the deadline for submission.

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 This report provides an update to the councils Corporate Plan that was published in June 2008. The Plan is based around five priorities identified by the Administration and the update offers information as to how the council is progressing on the actions that were agreed.
- 1.2 The five priorities identified by the Administration were:
 - Protect the environment while growing the economy
 - Better use of public money
 - Reduce inequality by increasing opportunity
 - Fair enforcement of the law
 - Open and effective Council
- 1.3 Since the publication of the Corporate Plan, the economic situation has seriously deteriorated. While the Administration is still focused on its corporate plan goals, against which it is making good progress, a number of other areas of work are now underway.
- 1.4 The Administration is working to reduce the present effects of the recession, though support for businesses and jobs and a 'be local buy local' campaign to assist the city's unique independent retail sector.
- 1.5 At the same time, the Administration is preparing for the end of the recession, and ensuring through support for innovation, skills and business creation that the city will be ready to prosper when growth returns.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Cabinet notes progress against the Corporate Plan outcomes is generally good and that close monitoring of actions is integrated into the organisations' business plans.
- 2.2 That Cabinet notes that Cabinet Members will review any areas of poor performance in greater detail at future Cabinet Member Meetings.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 The Corporate Plan covers the period 2008 – 2011 and the Cabinet review progress twice a year.
- 3.2 The progress of the Corporate Plan and the 'Local Area Agreement'; combined with updates from the 'National Indicator Set' provide an overall summary of progress towards the councils local service improvements.
- 3.3 The Action Plans that support the delivery of the Corporate Plan and the Local Area Agreement are formed by the councils Business Plans and Directorate Plans.
- 3.4 Business Plans and Directorate Plans are drafted mindful of budget proposals and are monitored at Directorate Management Teams and at one-to-one meetings with lead officers.
- 3.5 Red, amber & green are used in the appendix to indicate the general direction of travel. They represent a judgement against the progress of the agreed actions in the Corporate Plan. The overwhelming majority of actions are showing good progress towards the priorities outlined in the Corporate Plan.
 - Green - good progress
 - Amber - progress being made, but areas for improvement remain
 - Red - no significant progress being made
- 3.6 The 'Health of the Organisation' indicators (Appendix 2) are gleaned from previous 'Best Value' performance indicators. These continue to provide useful information by which monitor the corporate 'health' of the authority. These include sickness and equality monitoring and a summary of performance and learning from recorded complaints during 08/09.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The Management Team and Directorate Management Teams have been consulted on the new National Indicator Set and on plans for future performance reporting. This new reporting regime will ensure that progress is adequately measured against objectives and will provide an early warning for failing areas and allow appropriate action to be taken.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

5.1 There are none.

Finance Officer Consulted: Nigel Manvell Date: 04/06/09

Legal Implications:

5.2 There are none.

Lawyer Consulted: Elizabeth Culbert Date: 04/06/09

Equalities Implications:

5.3 The performance management framework incorporates monitoring of progress against equalities and inclusion outcomes in the city.

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 The performance management framework incorporates monitoring of progress against sustainability outcomes in the city.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.5 There are none.

Risk & Opportunity Management Implications:

5.6 The management of performance is important and contributes to avoiding the risk that the council's improvement priorities will not be delivered. Progress against performance indicators informs our risk and opportunity management assessments.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.7 Cabinet and The Management Team continue to have Performance Focus sessions, this is nationally recognised as good practice. It allows for both quarterly overviews of performance against targets and more focussed discussion of areas requiring attention. This is an essential part of the council's performance management framework, providing the link between the Corporate Plan and annual Directorate and Service plans.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

6.1 The monitoring of the Corporate Plan is part of the performance management framework. This framework is a corporately defined process, as such no alternative options are appropriate.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The report provides information on progress against the council's priorities ensuring close monitoring for continuous improvement and provides Cabinet with progress against the council's Corporate Plan.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Progress against the Corporate Plan
2. Summary of progress action the health of our organisation indicators

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

None