

**CABINET**

**6 JUNE 2012**

**CORPORATE PLAN 2012/13 - 2014/15**

**Report of the Chief Executive**

**1.0 Purpose of the Report**

1.1 This report submits for consideration the Corporate Plan 2012/13 - 2014/15.

**2.0 Description of Decision**

2.1 Cabinet is requested to consider the contents of the Corporate Plan 2012/13 - 2014/15 and recommend it to Full Council for approval.

2.2 Cabinet is requested to delegate the final approval to the Leader and Chief Executive and authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to make any minor or final amendments to the Plan.

2.3 Cabinet is requested to authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to approve a summary version of the Corporate Plan and to make any minor or final amendments to the summary.

**3.0 Introduction/Background**

3.1 The Council's Corporate Strategic Planning Framework contains several related components which are identified in Appendix 1. The Corporate Plan is a key element of this Framework

3.2 It was previously a statutory requirement that councils produce a business plan bringing together their Medium Term Financial Strategy, service plans, objectives and performance outturns and targets. This was produced by the Council as the 'Corporate Improvement Plan' (CIP). This requirement has been removed. However, the Council remains committed to robust business planning, openness and accountability to stakeholders and has, therefore, determined to set out its vision and approach in the Corporate Plan.

3.3 In developing the Council's Corporate Strategic Planning Framework, consideration was given to the appropriateness of the CIP. The format of the CIP is considered no longer suitable for the Council as a means of articulating the Council's strategic direction in the context of the Sunderland Way of Working.

- 3.4 The purpose of the Corporate Plan is to provide a clear articulation of the Council's strategic direction centred on the purpose, vision, priorities and outcomes described in the Corporate Outcomes Framework.

#### **4.0 Current Position**

- 4.1 The new format Corporate Plan will be the Council's sole strategic plan, capturing and expressing in simple terms the Council's direction and intentions for the years 2012/2013 - 2014/2015.
- 4.2 A draft Corporate Plan 2012/2013 – 2014/2015 has been developed and is attached to this report as Appendix 2.
- 4.3 The Draft Corporate Plan 2012/2013 - 2014/2015 comprises:
- § Section 1: Purpose and Progress - introducing the Plan, its role, the purpose of the Council, and an overview of the Council's strategic direction
  - § Section 2: Sunderland Today – describing Sunderland and its unique characteristics in respect of People, Place and Economy, together with the legislative and financial changes impacting on the council and the city.
  - § Section 3: What do we want for our People, Place and Economy? – a clear description of the key actions the Council plans to take and the results it expects to deliver structured around the Corporate Outcomes Framework.
  - § Section 4: How we are organised and the Sunderland Way of Working – how we organise ourselves, as a council, to deliver against our commitments in the years ahead.
- 4.4 The Corporate Plan 2012/13 - 2014/15 will be published electronically.
- 4.5 A Summary version of the Corporate Plan 2012/13 – 2014/15 will be produced, which the Cabinet is requested to delegate the final approval of to the Leader and Chief Executive.

#### **5.0 Reasons for Decision**

- 5.1 Production of the Corporate Plan is required under the council's Constitution, as an Article 4 Plan.
- 5.2 The Corporate Plan is considered to be a clear statement of the council's strategic direction and objectives.

#### **6.0 Alternative Options**

- 6.1 Alternative Options considered and rejected as part of the process of developing the Corporate Plan were:
- Option 1. Do Nothing:** This option was not considered appropriate as the Council would not have a strategic plan that captured and expressed in simple terms the Council's direction and intentions for the years 2012/2013 - 2014/2015.

**Option 2. Produce a CIP:** This option was not considered appropriate as the CIP is considered no longer suitable for the Council as a means of articulating and communicating the Council's strategic direction in the context of the Sunderland Way of Working.

## **7.0 Impact Analysis**

7.1 The Corporate Plan is subject to an Equalities Analysis, through the Service Business Plans. Actions contained in the Corporate Plan are being analysed further for equalities implications at service and directorate level as appropriate.

## **8.0 Other Relevant Considerations/Consultations**

8.1 The Corporate Plan has policy implications for the council as it articulates the council's strategic direction in the context of the Corporate Outcomes Framework. These implications have been taken into account by the Head of Strategy, Policy and Performance Management as the author of this report on behalf of the Deputy Chief Executive and in the updating of the COF and the ongoing development of the supporting Strategy Framework.

### **Background Papers**

Strategic Planning Guidance 2009/2010

### **Appendix**

Appendix 1: Corporate Strategic Planning Framework

Appendix 2: Corporate Plan 2012/13 -2014/15

# Appendix 1: Corporate Strategic Planning Framework

