

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leader and Cabinet 8 April 2010
AUTHOR/S: Chief Executive / Corporate Manager (Community and Customer Services)

CORPORATE PLAN 2010-11

Purpose, background and overview

1. The draft Corporate Plan for April 2010-March 2011 is **attached** for Cabinet's consideration, comment and recommended endorsement prior to submission to Council for adoption.
2. The plan represents the culmination of the service and budget-setting processes begun in Autumn 2009 with the in-principle agreement by Cabinet, subsequently confirmed, of strategic Aims, Approaches and Actions for the year, and continuing through the development and approval of draft and final service, operational and improvement plans by Portfolio Holders, and of revenue and capital estimates for 2010-11 by the Council.
3. This will not be a key decision within the Cabinet's remit set out in the Constitution; however, the plan requires a Cabinet recommendation to Council as it is deemed to form part of the Council's policy framework. This issue was first published in the January 2010 Forward Plan.
4. It should be noted that there remain a number of small gaps currently in the draft plan, primarily around performance information and achievements during 2009/10 for which final information is awaited. It is also envisaged that the plan will be further developed in terms of presentation, inserting photographs to minimise blank space etc, consequently Cabinet is asked to recommend to Council that authority is delegated to the Chief Executive to approve the final version for publication incorporating these, and any other minor amendments.
5. The Executive Summary, set out in the opening section of the draft plan, provides a useful overview of what the plan is and what it aims to achieve; for ease of reference, it is reproduced here:

'South Cambridgeshire District Council's Corporate Plan for 2010-11 sets out our achievements during the past year and key objectives for the year to come. The opening sections set out the local, regional and national context within which we operate, identifying us as one of the largest districts in England in terms of population, yet one of the least urbanised, as we strive to continue to provide quality services in spite of current and anticipated cuts in public sector spending and the challenges brought about by recession, growing demand for key services and internal restructuring.

The Plan goes on to set out our Vision and Corporate Aims, in each case identifying why we consider the aim to be important, what our approaches are, how far we have gone towards meeting the aim during 2009-10, and how much further we'll be going in 2010-11.'

Options

6. Cabinet is invited to give its views on the draft plan, especially in terms of the extent to which it provides a clear and reasonably succinct position statement of where the Council is, what the organisation has done, what it intends to do and how it intends to do it. Cabinet may recommend the adoption of the plan to Council with or without amendments, or reject the plan as drafted. It is considered that the draft plan provides a sound overview of the Council's current position and future aspirations, therefore rejection of the plan is not recommended.

Implications

7. There are no significant implications which have not already been considered during the budget and service planning processes which have already taken place.

Consultations

8. The Council undertook a wide consultation with its residents and key Local Strategic Partnership in developing and agreeing strategic aims which complement the objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2011 and which, if achieved, will result in positive outcomes for the community. The plan has been submitted to the Council's Senior and Executive Management Teams for comment; their feedback has been incorporated into the version now presented to Cabinet.

Effect on Strategic Aims

9. The draft plan is structured around the Council's Vision, Aims, Approaches and Actions, and is intended to provide a single central point of reference through which they can be communicated, monitored and reviewed.

Recommendation

10. That Cabinet recommends to Council that the draft Corporate Plan, attached as an Appendix to this report, be adopted, subject to the Chief Executive being authorised to approve the final draft for publication incorporating the minor amendments referred to in paragraph 4 above.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report (all available from the Policy and Performance Manager using the contact details below):

- Corporate Plan 2009-2010.
- Service plans for 2010-2011.
- Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2011.

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