

CHESHIRE EAST

Council

Date of meeting: 24th February 2009

Report of: Martin Smith, Executive Office

Title: Cheshire East Council: Corporate Plan - Improving services together

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To enable the Council to consider Cheshire East's draft Corporate Plan as recommended by the Cabinet following their discussion on 17 February. Any suggested amendments to the draft plan will be reported to Council, the document accompanying this report is the version considered by Cabinet.

2.0 Decision Required

- 2.1 To approve the Corporate Plan and a decision as to whether the Corporate Plan should in future be reserved to Council as part of its Policy Framework.

3.0 Legal Implications

- 3.1 There are no specific legal implications related to the issues raised in this paper.

4.0 Risk Assessment

- 4.1 A council's Corporate Plan is an important document providing a strategic overview which will underpin a wide range of work across the Authority. By having a robust Corporate Plan in place Cheshire East Council will minimise the risk of inconsistency of approach across service areas and provide a clear focus for the deployment of resources.

5.0 Background

- 5.1 The Corporate Plan is an essential part of the Council's policy and delivery planning framework. It will inform the Council's business and service plans and therefore ensure that the day to day work of the Council is focused on local priorities. The Plan will be an important influencing factor in the development of the Authority's Workforce

Development Strategy and underpin the development or refinement of a range of other strategies and policies over the coming months.

- 5.2 An equality impact assessment has been completed on the Corporate Plan.
- 5.3 The starting point for developing the Plan were the Corporate Plans of the four constituent predecessor Authorities and the draft Cheshire East Sustainable Community Strategy. However, the draft plan in its current form is a different document to any of these plans. The Plan has evolved to reflect the unique nature of Cheshire East as an area and the challenges facing the new Council over the first twelve months of its life. The Plan has been influenced by feedback from a wide range of stakeholders, including Town and Parish Councils, local businesses and employee Trade Unions and has been developed alongside the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 5.4 The Corporate Plan is in effect an interim document which will serve the Council in 2009/10. Work on developing a Plan for the period 2010/11 to 2012/13 will begin in summer 2009 once Local Area Agreement have been reviewed and agreed and work has commenced on a revised Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 5.5 A second document, currently at a late stage of development, will accompany the Corporate Plan. The Annual Performance Plan will be a more detailed document which will provide information on all relevant Performance Indicators. This document will be the subject of a report to future meetings of the Cabinet and Council.

6.0 Reasons for Recommendation

- 6.1 To enable Cheshire East Council to have a Corporate Plan in place from 1st April 2009.