

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Corporate Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 13 July 2009
Report of: Borough Treasurer and Head of Assets
Subject / Title: Business Planning 2010-13 incorporating Key Decision (CE09/10-04) – Capital Strategy 2009-2013

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 Cabinet are to receive a report on the approach to corporate, business and financial, planning processes for 2010 and beyond, the report will also include the Capital Strategy 2009-2013 (Key Decision).
- 1.2 Corporate Scrutiny Committee members are asked to note the content of the report and make comment as appropriate. Comments will be received by Cabinet on 14th July 2009.
- 1.3 The report details the business planning proposals to develop a performance framework linked to a Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2010-2013 and to budget planning for 2010-2011.
- 1.4 Consultation and internal scrutiny of these plans provides key evidence to external scrutiny that Cheshire East Council is meeting the requirements of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) – Use of Resources assessment examined by the Audit Commission.
- 1.5 Key frameworks and strategies are in development and the attached report presents the process to integrate wider corporate Business and financial planning as well as to deliver a legal budget for 2010/2011.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the content of the Cabinet Report, including Key Decision CE09/10-04 ~ Approval of Capital Strategy 2009-13 (Appendix F).
- 2.2 To make comments where appropriate which can be circulated at the cabinet meeting of 14th July 2009

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To demonstrate proper scrutiny of the proposed processes for Cheshire East Council to deliver a legal Budget and Council Tax for 2010-11 and to address the wider performance and consultation demands.

4.0 Wards Affected

4.1 Not applicable.

5.0 Local Ward Members

5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change - Health

6.1 Not applicable.

7.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

7.1 None.

8.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

8.1 The report includes an overview of the Financial Scenario for the period 2010-11 to 2012-13, and sets out a process to deal with the issues arising.

9.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk Management

10.1 The Council faces financial and external reporting risks if the Corporate Planning process is not adequate. The Cabinet report aims to mitigate these risks by introducing clear processes.

11.0 Background and Options

11.1 Key Line Of Enquiry (KLOE) 1.1 of the Use of Resources CAA assessment focuses on whether the council integrates financial planning with strategic and service planning processes on a medium to long term basis. The Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) has produced a checklist of questions to support effective planning that supports this KLOE:

- *Does the community strategy act as an overarching framework for corporate, service or theme specific plans?*
- *Have the priority community issues been translated into corporate objectives?*
- *Is there a corporate plan in place that identifies the tasks and resources necessary to achieve the corporate objectives?*
- *Is resource allocation based on corporate objectives?*
- *Is service improvement and financial planning integrated?*
- *Are there up to date departmental service plans in place that translate corporate objectives into action plans?*

These questions provide a framework for strategic, business and financial planning in Cheshire East. The report to Cabinet sets out a process for addressing these questions through consultation with Members, Officers and stakeholders.

- 11.2 The council adopted an interim corporate plan for 2009-2010, that identified eight objectives and 22 priorities to guide service delivery and the use of financial resources. These reflect local challenges and needs as identified in an interim Cheshire East sustainable community strategy which has been based on community strategies and local needs identified by the prior authorities. The new Cheshire East local strategic partnership has started work on a new community strategy, to be finalised later this year.
- 11.5 The 2009/2010 budget process was, to some extent, year one driven. The process for 2010 and beyond must therefore be re-defined and Corporate Scrutiny Committee members are therefore asked to comment on the processes and deadlines described in the report.

13.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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