

To: City Executive Board

Date: 31st. March 2010

Item No:

Report of: Value and Performance Scrutiny Committee

Title of Report: Value and Performance Scrutiny Committee response to the Corporate Plan 2010-2013

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To present the scrutiny committee observations on the Draft Corporate Plan provided for consultation.

Key decision - Yes

Executive lead member - Councillor Price

Report approved by:

Recommendation(s):

This report does not provide for any agreed recommendations by scrutiny but observations made by individual committee members

Introduction

1. A special meeting of the Value and Performance Scrutiny Committee on 31st. March 2010 considered the Draft Corporate Plan 2010 – 2013. The committee did not reach any agreed recommendations but a number of observations were made by committee members which are presented here for consideration.

Member Observations

2. **General comment**
3. The objectives and targets throughout the document are not SMART and as such will prove difficult to monitor and provide for transparency of achievement. It is hoped that this is a high level document and something else supporting this can be presented to scrutiny to successfully monitor progress

4. Key themes in the Corporate Plan

“Better engagement with young people” is too narrow. We need to improve our engagement with all. The public want more information and consultation before decisions are made. There is no specific evidence throughout the Plan that this is being addressed

5. Forward from Group Leaders and the Chief Executive

To change the statement that “national politicians of all parties are saying that cuts to public spending is inevitable” to national politicians of most parties

6. For the paragraph on houses in multiple occupation (HMO) to be written more positively recognizing that HMOs are essential to providing accommodation within a City with a severe housing shortage

7. The paragraphs outlining the Place Survey results and public satisfaction seem to be at odds with each other and need redrafting

8. More housing, better housing for all

9. To insert the phrase “at least” into the first bullet point so it reads “Ensure that at least 183 new affordable properties are built in Oxford by 2011”

10. To reconsider the figure of “200 more HMOs to be licensed”. This is a strategic priority and this needs to be a stretched target

11. To show a commitment in the “50% affordable homes on sites of more than 10” to challenging this target for increase

12. Tackling inequalities and supporting communities

13. When outlining groups who do worse than others in terms of education, employment etc. to recognize the difficulties within some white communities and groups

14. On the partnership objectives to reduce obesity amongst children there are no measurable action included in the Plan. This is an important issue and outcomes need monitoring

15. The action to raise levels of adult participation in sport by 5% is very low given that we perform poorly in this area. Whilst recognizing that this is a LAA target we still need to challenge ourselves beyond this

16. Improve the environment, economy and quality of life

17. It is too early to say that our partnership with Fusion is working well. This needs to be evidenced in terms of improved outputs and outcomes

18. Reflect that the Destination Management Organization is an Oxfordshire wide offer

19. Represent the challenging future for the Museum and potential paths to success

20. To expand on the objective to look for a new cemetery site to look beyond the edge of the City so as not to take housing development or recreational land or possibly look in partnership within Oxfordshire

21. To remove the reference to the Northern Gateway as this is too speculative
- 22. Tackle climate change and promote sustainable environmental resource management**
23. To remove or reword the reference to “home zones” as these are no longer considered good practice
24. To present the 20% on-site renewable energy production for large developments as an increasing figure with the threshold as a decreasing figure
25. Ensure that the targets for recycling match and keep up with those within the service contracts
26. On SAP ratings we should not ignore the stock that isn't council owned as this is the greater proportion in the City
27. The 10:10 campaign is not mentioned and should be
28. To give more detail on the 2013 target to continue to improve air quality. Say too what, which methods and by when
- 29. Reduce crime and anti-social behavior**
30. The objective to step up enforcement action on environmental crime should be written as a ratio to crimes committed to ensure it remains stretching and challenging
- 31. Transform Oxford City Council by improving value for money and service performance**
32. The target to deliver our Asst Management Plan by 2011 does not match the Plan itself which has action beyond this date
33. The target to reduce the office footprint by 25% by 2013 is inadequate and not stretching. We have reduce staff numbers significantly and should be making maximum use of flexible working practices and technology to be able to increase this target
- 34. Working in partnership**
35. When describing the Local Strategic Partnership as vibrant and participative it should be made clear that this relates to Partnership membership as opposed to how the Partnership relates to communities were it has a significant way to go before it is participative
36. The MKOB partnership is described as strong. This partnership is not democratic and councillors do not get feedback. It should not be seen as a blue print as it lacks transparency and accountability
- 37. Corporately monitored targets**
38. Do not use the mathematical “True/False results in tables that are meant for general scrutiny and transparency. Plain English should be used on all occasions

- 39. NI 192 gives a target of 50% recycling of household waste in 10/11. If the scheme doesn't start till the mid point of that year this would seem impossible. To represent the target accurately for the year 10/11
- 40. CP15.1 – some of these targets are cumulative and some are not. These need to be represented more clearly for transparency
- 41. NI185 and NI 186 – These say that information is not available from DEFRA. It is believed that this is available

Report Author: Pat Jones on behalf of The Chair of the Value and Performance Scrutiny Committee

Email: phjones@oxford.gov.uk

Tel: 01865 252191