

To: Council

Date: 8th October 2012

Report of: Head of Law and Governance

Title of Report: POLICY FRAMEWORK – RECONFIGURATION

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: This report reviews the composition of the Council's Policy Framework; it explains that the Policy Framework has developed over time and has not been comprehensively reviewed; it reviews the present Policy Framework; and it proposes a reconfiguration.

Report Approved by:

Finance: Jacqueline Yates

Legal: Jeremy Thomas

Policy Framework: Not applicable

Recommendation(s): Council is recommended to approve the reconfigured Policy Framework as set out in Annex 2 to this report.

1. Full Council is responsible for the Council's Policy Framework and Budget, that is to say full Council is the final decision-making body for the Council's policies and the Council's Budget. Policies agreed by full Council are collectively described as the Council's Policy Framework. It is within and in accordance with the Policy Framework that the Council through the Executive sets strategies and takes operational decisions.
2. Some policies are required by law to be in the Policy Framework. These are set out in Annex 1 to this report. Other policies are in the Policy Framework by the Council's own choice. The Council's full Policy Framework is set out in Column 1 of Annex 2 to this report.
3. The Council's Policy Framework has been developed over time, in fact since October 2001 when the Council first started operating to the

decision-making and political arrangements required by the Local Government Act 2000. Your officers have reviewed the Policy Framework that has been developed over the past eleven years and are recommending a rationalisation of it. Column 2 of Annex 2 recommends the retention (✓) or repeal (X) of framework policies. Column 3 gives reasons for the recommendation. We have also included some new matters that in due course will be recommended to Council to form part of the Policy Framework.

Name and contact details of author:

William Reed
Democratic Services Manager
Oxford City Council
Town Hall
Oxford
OX1 1BX

Tel 01865 252230 wreed@oxford.gov.uk

Background papers: None

Version number: 1

POLICY FRAMEWORK RECONFIGURATION

Plans and Strategies that must in law constitute a Council's Policy Framework

Annual library plan (County Council)
Best value performance plan
Children and young people's plan (County Council)
Crime and disorder reduction strategy
Development plan documents
Licensing authority policy statement
Local transport plan (County Council)
Plans and alterations which together comprise the development plan
Sustainable community strategy
Youth justice plan (County Council)

"Policy Framework" is defined in the Constitution as follows:-

5.1 Budget and policy framework

(a) Description of responsibility

- The budget, including decisions to allocate money to services and projects, set up contingency funds, set the council tax base, set the council tax, control the council's borrowing requirement, control capital spending, set a limit on the amount that can be transferred between cost centres, agree the treasury management strategy and the corporate asset management plan.
- The policy framework, including the best value performance plan, the community strategy, the crime and disorder reduction strategy, the [local development framework](#) and any other plans or strategies agreed by full council.

POLICY FRAMEWORK RECONFIGURATIONRationalisation of the City Council's Policy Framework

Policy	Retention Recommendation	Reason
Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP)	X	BVPP no longer a requirement of the Government (but law has not been changed to delete the requirement that the authority itself adopts). Best value is included in the Council's Corporate Plan which is for retention as a Policy Framework document.
Community Strategy (now called the Sustainable Community Strategy)	X	Sits under the Council's Corporate Plan as a strategy. The Oxford Strategic Partnership Sustainable Community Strategy refresh will be presented as a strategy to CEB for adoption in due course.
Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy (now called the Community Safety rolling plan)	✓	This is now a rolling work programme within the Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership and is a work programme and not a policy (or a strategy). The law requires the authority to have adopted such a strategy however and so we need to continue to list the strategy in the Policy Framework. It is officers' intention in due course for the rolling plan to sit under the Council's Corporate Plan.
Corporate Plan	✓	Policy Framework document

Food Law Enforcement Service Plan	X	A work plan, not a policy
Local Agenda 21 Strategy	X	Superseded by the Sustainability Strategy adopted by Council into the Policy Framework on 19 th December 2011
Corporate Equality Policy	X	Superseded by the Corporate Equalities Scheme adopted by the CEB on 7 th December 2011. Not a Policy Framework document because not adopted by full Council.
Economic Development Strategy	X	Sits under the Regeneration Framework (now called the Economic Development and Growth Strategy) as a strategy
Leisure Strategy	✓	Retain but will be replaced by a new Leisure Policy, to be consulted upon and adopted in 2013.
Employment Stability Policy	✓	Rename Organisational Change Policy
Overall management structure of the authority	X	Overtaken by the current scheme of delegation – see 5.15 in the Constitution.
Capital Strategy	X	Now part of the Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy
Corporate Asset Management Plan	✓	Title changed to Asset Management Plan. Currently consulting upon a refresh of the Plan with a view to adoption in October 2012.
E-Government Strategy	X	No longer needed as a policy. Has been implemented and technology has moved on

Contaminated Land Strategy	x	This sits under the Sustainability Strategy adopted by Council on 19 th December 201.
Consultation Strategy	✓	Retain as a Policy Framework document
The plan and strategy that comprise the Housing Investment Programme	X	The Housing Investment Programme as a separate document no longer exists. Its provisions are included in the Housing Strategy
Housing Capital Programme	X	An integral part of the budget and the HRA Business Plan. Not a policy in its own right.
HRA Business Plan	✓	Adopted by Council on 20 th February 2012.
Housing Strategy	✓	Adopted by Council on 23 rd April 2012
Homelessness Strategy	✓	It is a requirement of the Homelessness Act that the Council itself adopts a Homelessness Strategy, so this amounts to a Policy Framework document. Review of Strategy has commenced and will be reported to Council in December 2012
Black and Ethnic Minorities Housing Strategy	X	This is a strategy that sits under the Housing Strategy (policy)
Annual housing policy statement	X	This is a strategy that sits under the Housing strategy (policy)
Allocations policy	✓	
Day to day repair policy	X	This will be a strategy or plan that sits under the HRA Business Plan.
Tenancy Strategy	✓	The Localism Act introduced a requirement for councils to adopt a Tenancy Strategy. Programmed for consultation in Autumn 2012

Renovation and disabled facilities grants and loans policy	✓	Policy required in law.
Local air quality management: Central Oxford Air Quality Plan	X	An action plan and so not a policy as such. The plan was adopted by Council because that is what the law requires.
Member Development Framework	X	This represents a statement of intent in respect of member development. It is not a policy per se.
Audit Commission quality of life indicators	X	Not a council document (and so not in the Council's control) and in any case now obsolete
European common indicators 7 and 10	X	Not a council document and so not in the Council's control.
Policy on quantity control on the numbers of hackney carriage vehicle licences	✓	A policy of the Council of long-standing, confirmed most recently by full Council in July 2010.
Regeneration Framework	✓	Name changed to Economic Development and Growth Strategy.
Plans and alterations which together form the Development Plan (eg Local Plan saved policies, neighbourhood plans)	✓	
Development Plan documents (eg Core Strategy)	✓	
Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule	✓	
Licensing authority policy statement	✓	This policy statement is required by law to be adopted by Council.
Statement of gambling policy	✓	This policy statement is required by law to be adopted by Council.

Culture Strategy	✓	Programmed to go to Council for adoption into the Policy Framework in October 2012.
Sustainability Strategy	✓	Adopted by Council on 19 th December 2011.