

**To: City Executive Board**

**Date: 19<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

**Report of: Head of Policy, Culture & Communications**

**Title of Report: CONSULTATION CORPORATE PLAN 2013-17**

## **Summary and Recommendations**

**Purpose of report:** To introduce the Corporate Plan 2013-2017

**Key decision:** Yes

**Executive lead member:** Councillor Bob Price

**Report approved by:**

**Legal:** Jeremy Thomas, Head of Law and Governance

**Finance:** Nigel Kennedy

**Policy Framework:** Corporate Plan 2013-17

**Recommendation(s):**

City Executive Board is recommended to agree copy and targets for the main body of the Corporate Plan 2013-2017 and authorise its release for consultation.

## **Background**

1. The Corporate Plan is the City Council's over-arching strategic document. It sets out the strategic direction of the Council over the next four years.
2. This plan updates and takes forward the priorities of the Corporate Plans agreed by Council in recent years. The draft of the Corporate Plan that follows this report sets out new copy for those sections of the plan that require substantial updating.
3. The City Council's corporate plans over the last three years have affirmed the Council's ambition – developed with our partners, including business, community organisations, the health and education sectors and the County Council – to make Oxford a world-class city for

everyone. They have also affirmed our plans for transforming the way that the Council performs.

### **This year's plan**

4. We remain committed to our core ambitions of building a world class city for everyone and continuing to transform our own performance. The City Council's priorities for the next four years are:

- A vibrant and sustainable economy
- Meeting housing needs
- Strong and active communities
- Cleaner greener Oxford
- An efficient and effective council.

Key themes in this year's plan include:

- Continuing to invest in the city (for example, through our programme to build new homes and to improve the city's leisure facilities) and by working with our partners to help build on the city-region's knowledge economy and attract inward investment
  - Expanding the options and opportunities available to young people - particularly in the more deprived areas of the city - through our programmes to improve educational attainment and promote youth ambition
  - Continuing to improve the quality of houses in multiple occupation in the private rented sector
  - Embedding the principles of sustainability and carbon reduction at the heart of everything that the Council does and working through Low Carbon Oxford to grow the green economy.
5. This Corporate Plan retains the organisational structure that has been agreed by Council in recent years, with substantive chapters covering each of the Council's five priorities. The information within each section has been updated and rolled forward, setting out areas of focus for the coming year.
6. The format of the plan has been modified. The aim has been to reduce the plan's narrative component while ensuring that the links between the demographic needs of the city, our priorities, and our actions are clearer. We will be publishing a separate mid-year annual report to complement the Corporate Plan.
7. Performance measures and targets are currently being reviewed in the light of performance for the year to date and changes to the circumstances within which we work. The draft Corporate Plan 2013-17 now includes measures for two of the Council's most important new initiatives – educational attainment and promoting youth ambition. Outturn figures for the third quarter will not be available until mid-January 2013 and definitive, calculated targets for all measures will be contained in the version of the Corporate Plan that returns to City Executive Board in February.

8. Many of the key issues that are important to the well-being of our city and its people are beyond the direct control of the City Council and the need for effective partnership working underpins all sections of the plan.

### **Financial Implications**

9. The Corporate Plan is underpinned by the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan which outlines how the objectives within the Corporate Plan will be funded. The MTFP is presented elsewhere on this CEB agenda and includes the Council's Consultation Budget for 2013/14

### **Risk implications**

10. The Corporate Plan is an overarching strategic document, which is underpinned by a series of supporting documents. Details of projects and actions which contribute to the delivery of corporate priorities will be found in the Council's service plans and other delivery plans. Risk assessments against these projects and actions will be found in those documents.

### **Equalities implications**

11. An equalities impact assessment is attached. The City Council's overriding concern in formulating its budget and Corporate Plan has been to expand the options and opportunities available to the people of our city. We particularly aim to expand opportunities for those who live in the more deprived areas.

### **Consultation**

12. The consultation period will begin on 20<sup>th</sup> December, following City Executive Board approval on the 19<sup>th</sup> December. The consultation will close on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> January. A draft amended in the light of consultation will come back to City Executive Board on 13<sup>th</sup> February. A website link will be sent to all key stakeholders and community groups and an item will also be placed in the Oxford Mail, directing people to the web link.

### **Publication and Distribution**

11. The plan, when finally published, will be designed in the same accessible style as in previous years.

The Corporate Plan will be distributed in the following ways:

- The full-length document will be published in PDF format on our website. A link to this PDF will be forwarded to all Councillors, key stakeholders, staff and libraries.

- A summary leaflet version of the plan will be produced and distributed to all Councillors and all members of staff. Copies will be available for further distribution at Council outlets and elsewhere. A PDF of the summary version will also be posted on the website.
- A highlight summary will be included in *Your Oxford*.

**Recommendation:**

City Executive Board is recommended to agree copy and targets for the Consultation Corporate Plan 2013-17 and authorise its release for consultation.

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