

To: City Executive Board

Date: 11 February 2016

Report of: Scrutiny Committee

Title of Report: Corporate Plan 2016-20

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To present recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee on the Corporate Plan 2016-20

Scrutiny Lead Member: Councillor Craig Simmons

Executive lead members: Councillor Bob Price, Council Leader and Board Member for Corporate Strategy and Economic Development

Recommendation of the Scrutiny Committee to the City Executive Board:

That the City Executive Board states whether it agrees or disagrees with the two recommendations set out in the body of this report.

Introduction

1. The Scrutiny Committee pre-scrutinised the Corporate Plan 2016-20 at its public meeting on 2 February 2016. The Committee would like to thank Caroline Green for presenting this item and answering questions. The Committee focused its questioning on the consultation feedback and corporate success measures.

Summary of the discussion

2. The Committee questioned some of the statements and numbers contained in the Corporate Plan, e.g. for spend on tower blocks and regeneration. The Committee heard that the figures would be reviewed by Finance and suggest that the Corporate Plan be fact-checked in light of recent changes to local government finance and national policy. The Committee also noted that Area Forums were referenced in the Plan but that some Area Forums in the city were not functioning as well as others.

Recommendation 1 – That the Corporate Plan is fact-checked in light of recent changes to local government finance and national policy before it is presented to Council.

3. The Committee noted that thirty-two consultation responses had been received (compared to over 50 last year), of which the majority related to the budget and only six to the Corporate Plan. The Committee heard that the Council had been in dialogue with key partners during the development of the Corporate Plan and was planning to review its Community Engagement Strategy. The Committee expressed disappointment at the number of consultation responses received and questioned what scope there was to improve this number in future, including perhaps through more active engagement with target groups and by consulting on the Council's Budget and Corporate Plan separately.

Recommendation 2 – That consideration is given to whether and how the number of responses received to the public consultation on the Budget and Corporate Plan could be maximised in future years.

4. The Committee noted that the number of corporate success measures had been reduced and considered the merits of some of the selected measures compared to other measures not included. The Committee suggest that as the Council has a special responsibility as a social landlord, one of the corporate measures should be focused on tenant satisfaction, and that this measure could perhaps replace the measure on limiting the use of temporary accommodation.
5. The Committee also questioned whether there was a better measure available for new homes in the city because the number of new homes granted planning permission did not necessarily reflect the delivery of new homes on the ground due to other barriers to development. It was suggested that the numbers of Council Tax completion Notices could be a more useful measure in this respect.

Recommendation 3 – That consideration is given to the following suggestions on the corporate success measures:

- a) ***That there should be a corporate success measure on tenant satisfaction given that the Council has special responsibilities as a landlord;***
- b) ***That the corporate success measure for new homes granted permission in the city should better reflect the actual delivery of new homes.***

Further consideration

6. The Committee will have the opportunity to consider any review or refresh of the Council's Community Engagement Policy or Consultation Strategy.

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