

City Executive Board – 11 February 2016

Corporate Plan 2016-20

Suggested City Executive Board response to Scrutiny Committee recommendation provided by the Council Leader and Board Member for Corporate Strategy and Economic Development:

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Recommendation	Agreed? (Y / N / In part)	Comment
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.	Y	The draft Corporate Plan will be updated to reflect latest draft budget and any policy announcements before it is presented to Council.
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.	Y	<p>It is agreed that this should be considered.</p> <p>The consultation on the draft Budget and Corporate Plan 2016-20 opened on 18th December 2015 and closed on 24th January 2016. An invitation to take part in the consultation was sent to over 3,300 email addresses via the consultation portal and an invitation from the Assistant Chief Executive was sent to key stakeholders. An advert was placed in the Oxford Mail on 22nd December, 29th December and 5th January. Paper copies were available on request from the Consultation Officer in the Town Hall. Responses were tracked on a weekly basis and a reminder email was sent on 15th January 2016.</p> <p>The number of responses to public consultation on the Corporate Plan and Budget was lower than average in recent years (average 68). There are a number of factors to consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The plan is developed with engagement of key partner organisations referenced in the plan so they

		<p>may not feel the need to respond</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Due to circumstances beyond our control, the consultation period is squeezed into a four week period that includes the Christmas and New Year holidays. 3. The Corporate Plan is the sum of many plans, strategies and policies that are developed on an on-going basis, and which the general public and key partners are consulted and invited to comment. 4. Respondents may focus their response on the draft Budget
<p>3. That consideration is given to the following suggestions on the corporate success measures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>N</p>	<p>3a) There are three success measures for each priority theme in the Corporate Plan which are designed to focus on the biggest challenges under each theme going forward. On this basis, the three proposed for the Housing Needs theme relate to housing delivery, limiting the use of temporary accommodation as a measure of preventing homelessness; and increasing the number of HMOs licensed in the city. In addition to the measures in the Corporate Plan we will continue to monitor progress on key indicators and report regularly to the Housing Panel. This will include satisfaction tenant satisfaction in recognition of the Councils' responsibilities as a landlord.</p> <p>3b). The corporate success measure using planning permissions reflects performance that is under the Council's control and that we can directly influence and measure. This is the measure by which we are judged by Government. Housing completions are also important to monitor, and the City Council does this annually in the Annual Monitoring Report. It is recognised that it is important that officers work proactively with developers to resolve blocks or delays on schemes. However there are many factors, including</p>

		<p>market forces which influence the timeline of when housing developments are built out, that are beyond the Council's control, including market circumstances. These wider factors make it more difficult to assess the effectiveness of the Council's performance through assessment of the annual number of housing completions. There is also a significant timelag in the collection of data on completions which makes monitoring of progress in a timely manner problematic.</p>
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