

Report for Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

15 and 17 February 2010

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an overview on the pack of papers that will be presented and scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 15 and 17 February 2010.
- 1.2 We continue to develop and build on the success of previous year's Corporate Plan and Budget Scrutiny process, providing a suite of strategic documents that outline priorities for Improvement and Resource allocations.

2. The Documents

- 2.1 The primary document that describes the Council's Strategic direction and Corporate Improvement Priorities (CIP) is **the Corporate Plan**. 2010/11 is the third year of focussing on our 14 identified CIPs.
- 2.2 When we adopted the Corporate Plan, in its existing format in 2008/09, we stated the need for sustained focus and effort on the CIPs, over at least a three year period. We will fundamentally review and challenge improvement priorities for the next three year period in the 2011/12 Corporate Plan.
- 2.3.1 All other documents presented to Scrutiny support and underpin the delivery of the Corporate Plan. In brief they are:
 - **Revenue and Capital Budgets 2010/11.** Due to the inter-linkage between our revenue allocations and our capital investment plans, this year we have combined all budget information into one integrated report. The budget is set within the context of our Medium Term Financial Strategy which is updated annually in March following the confirmation of Council Tax levels. The Revenue and Capital report provides an overview of the funding challenges and pressures faced by the Council, progress made and success in 2009/10, departmental commentaries, funding allocations and Delivery Plans that need to be enacted in order to deliver a robust, balanced budget.

(contd over)

- **Update on ICT, HR and Accommodation Strategies.** The Support Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel has, over the last few months, scrutinised progress made in relation to each of these strategies. In order to optimise our use of resources, we need to continue to integrate the delivery of these strategies. This report provides a brief overview of progress made to date in line with priorities and milestones set in CIP 13, Supporting staff to work better and CIP 14, Providing better value for money.
- **Treasury Management Strategy.** Since the collapse of the Icelandic banking institutions, the Council has radically revised its strategic approach to Treasury Management. We now minimise the risk of our investments, (with significantly lower returns), and offset the revenue impact of this through proactively reducing our debt profile. This strategy has been revised and updated for 2010/11 in consultation with our Treasury Management Advisors, Arling Close, and following input from elected members at an externally facilitated Treasury Management workshop.
- **Asset Management Plan.** The Asset Management Plan provides strategic direction, objectives and targets for managing our asset base. We continue to strive to improve the quality of our buildings through asset disposal and re-investment (within the constraints of the current economic climate) and allocating extra resources to pro-active maintenance budgets.

3. Summary

- 3.1 All papers presented for the 2010/11 Scrutiny process are inter-linked and are all focussed on continuing to improve the services that we provide to local residents and improving the efficiency of how the Council operates.

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