

CITY OF PLYMOUTH

Subject: Cabinet response to Overview and Scrutiny
Management Board Scrutiny Review Report
2010

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 16 March 2010

Cabinet Member: The Leader

CMT Member: Assistant Chief Executive

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Ref:

Part: Part 1

Executive Summary:

Full Council on 1 March 2010 referred a number of recommendations from the Overview and Management Boards scrutiny of the councils corporate plan 2010-2013 and revenue and capital budget 2010-2011 to cabinet.

This report sets out the Cabinet's response to those recommendations.

Corporate Plan 2010-2013:

The Corporate Plan refresh was the subject of the review report.

Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications: Including finance, human, IT and land

All the above are considered in the report.

Other Implications: e.g. Section 17 Community Safety, Health and Safety, Risk Management, Equalities Impact Assessment, etc.

As above

Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:

Cabinet are recommended to endorse the responses as set out in the attached schedule.

Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:

Cabinet must demonstrate that it has taken account of the recommendations from Scrutiny Management Board. Clearly in this case the alternative actions for Cabinet are to give different responses to the recommendations proposed in the attached schedule.

Background papers:

Corporate Plan 2010 – 2013
Revenue and Capital Budget Papers 2010 -2011
Scrutiny Review Report

Sign off:

Fin	PC. 091 0.02 1	Leg	LT1 105	HR		Corp Prop		IT		Strat Proc	
Originating SMT Member											

Schedule of Recommendations for consideration by Cabinet

The numbering in the schedule related to the original numbering and references used by management board.

2. Overview / General

To Cabinet -	
2.2	The People Strategy is amended to reflect more specifically the support that will be given to the Council's workforce in addressing the significant changes envisaged during the lifetime of the strategy.
Cabinet response – Recommendation agreed. As 3.6 below.	
2.3	Progress at developing and implementing value for money plans and targets for Departments should form part of the Council's reporting cycle including the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, and any possible impact on service recipients should be made clear.
Cabinet response – Recommendation agreed.	
2.4	That a review of the arrangements surrounding the negotiation of the stretch targets for the Local Area Agreement 2007-10 be carried out, to highlight any lessons to be learned for future negotiations of this kind.
Cabinet response – Recommendation agreed .	
2.5	That appropriate interim targets are put in place so that progress towards addressing major inequalities across the city can be measured effectively through the performance management cycle.
Cabinet response - Recommendation agreed. This will be addressed through a review of Corporate Improvement Priorities during the coming year (as per 2.7 below).	
2.6	That an action plan is prepared setting out the measures that the Council and partners will take to ensure that population data influencing revenue support and strategic planning is accurate and consistent.
Cabinet response - Recommendation agreed. This will form part of the preparations for Census 2011.	
2.7	That a review of the Corporate Improvement Priorities should be conducted, so that overriding priorities within them are highlighted, and ensuring that targets and milestones are SMART.
Cabinet response - Recommendation Agreed. There is an existing commitment to review Corporate Improvement Priorities during the coming year.	

To Cabinet -	
2.8	That further clarity is needed into how all Corporate Improvement Priorities (CIPs) are being resourced, with specific attention to cross cutting CIPs.
Cabinet response – <i>Resources have been allocated to deliver CIPs within mainstream budgets or corporate items. Disaggregation of mainstream budgets against individual priorities is not considered appropriate.</i>	
2.9	That, in the interests of openness and transparency, governance arrangements for the allocation of 'spend to save' resources, including the role of scrutiny panels are prepared and published.
Cabinet response - <i>Recommendation agreed.</i>	

3. Corporate Support / Chief Executives

To Cabinet -	
3.1	Overall impact on customers is used as a measure of the benefit of efficiency savings rather on whether savings come from the 'back office' or 'front line' service delivery.
Cabinet response - <i>Recommendation agreed. This recommendation will be incorporated within value for money planning.</i>	
3.2	Confirmation required that the Place Survey is accepted as part of the city's performance management framework, and that targets set against Place Survey responses will be used to measure progress against objectives.
Cabinet response - <i>The Leader and Chief Executive provided this confirmation to the Board in the closing session. A range of other customer perception measures will also be used to measure progress against objectives.</i>	
3.3	A thorough review is conducted of how customer satisfaction will be measured, monitored and assessed, and in particular of how and what targets will be set.
Cabinet response - <i>Recommendation agreed. This recommendation will be incorporated within Corporate Improvement Priority 1 'Improving Customer Service'.</i>	
3.4	Clarification is sought of the overall approach to all key income collection streams during the recession, including a review as to whether targets are sufficiently challenging.
Cabinet response - <i>Recommendation agreed.</i>	
3.5	A comprehensive and prioritised list of ICT support for Corporate Improvement Priorities including 'business as usual' is published and maintained throughout the year.
Cabinet response – <i>Recommendation agreed</i>	

To Cabinet	
3.6	Measures of success for the combined ICT, Asset Management and People Strategies are developed and monitored through scrutiny. Firm plans for cooperation with partners addressing a range of measures to share resources including buildings, people and ICT are included in the relevant strategies.
Cabinet response – <i>Recommendation agreed – this recommendation will be incorporated into the review of the above strategies.</i>	
3.7	Data sources for value for money judgements of all relevant services should be agreed and published as part of overall financial and performance monitoring arrangements.
Cabinet response - <i>Recommendation agreed (As 2.3 above).</i>	
3.8	Proposals for major changes in office accommodation are set out in the asset management strategy or associated plans, and are communicated more effectively across the organisation.
Cabinet response - <i>Recommendation agreed.</i>	

4. Department for Community Services

To Cabinet -	
4.1	A risk assessment of the impact of the delay in addressing issues in the Care First management system on adult social care is prepared and published.
Cabinet response - <i>Recommendation agreed. This has already been prepared.</i>	
4.2	The revenue delivery plan for Community Services is fully completed and includes a risk assessment for delivery with mitigation measures.
Cabinet response - <i>The plan has been updated during the budget setting process, and will be reported as part of the bi-monthly performance and finance process.</i>	
4.3	Monitoring and evaluation of the Localities project, including contributions from partners be prepared, together with an assessment of resource requirements.
Cabinet response - <i>Recommendation agreed. As a part of ongoing evaluation of the project.</i>	
4.4	Targets should be set for all relevant National Indicators and Place Survey results for Community Services, with reasons given when no targets are set.
Cabinet response - <i>This work is being completed as a matter of course as baseline data becomes available.</i>	

To Cabinet -	
4.6	What specific actions are being taken to address our failure to achieve recycling targets, and how are they to be funded?
Cabinet response - <i>Action against this performance indicator will be reported as part of the performance and finance cycle.</i>	
4.7	The Dementia Strategy is subject to scrutiny, and includes realistic delivery arrangements.
Cabinet response - <i>Recommendation agreed.</i>	

5. Department for Services for Children and Young People

To the Building Schools for the Future Sub Committee -	
5.1	Formal engagement between school governors and Third Sector organisations takes place over the Memoranda of Understanding with new schools to maximise the extent to which their facilities are available and accessible to local communities.
BSF Sub Committee response - <i>This is an existing commitment within BSF.</i>	
To Cabinet -	
5.2	Plans are published for better coordination of 'back office' functions between Children and Young People's services and the rest of the organisation to avoid duplication and to gain efficiencies.
Cabinet response – <i>Recommendation agreed – this is a priority for the coming year.</i>	
5.3	Performance management arrangements between the Children's Trust and the Council's executive and scrutiny arrangements are harmonised and clarified.
Cabinet response – <i>Recommendation agreed.</i>	
5.4	That, in light of the poor results of the recent unannounced inspection in Children's services, the department responds to concerns raised over caseloads of Children's Social Workers, resources for Foster Care and the lack of evidence of new and innovative ways of making efficiency savings in co-operation with other departments and partners.
Cabinet response – <i>Cabinet recognise that there are issues to address arising from the unannounced inspection but does not recognise the description of either the service or the inspection outcome as poor.</i>	
5.5	The board responsible for the improvement of the CareFirst management system clarify the key elements of the project plan with respect to children's social care, including investment, people resources and key milestones and timelines.
Cabinet response - <i>This detail is already available.</i>	

To Cabinet -	
5.6	Further details are provided of efficiency savings contained within the budget reduction in Lifelong Learning.
Cabinet response - Action against this budget line be reported as part of the performance and finance cycle.	
5.8	Initiatives contributing to the reduction of teenage pregnancy should be part of an overall plan, and properly highlighted to relevant stakeholders.
Cabinet response – Recommendation agreed.	

6. Department for Development and Regeneration

To Cabinet -	
6.2	Use of 'invest to save' resources is considered to prioritise bringing abandoned property back into use, including consideration of greater use of private or not for profit sector partners.
Cabinet response - All suitable business cases will be considered.	
6.3	A map of key executive boards is produced showing terms of reference and governance arrangements.
Cabinet response – Recommendation agreed.	
6.4	Asset management strategy should better reflect innovative use of the Council's estate and partner contributions during the recession, including asset transfer to the Third Sector.
Cabinet response - Agreed – as 3.8 above.	
6.7	A review of the Amey contract should be undertaken, including the key learning points for future similar partnering arrangements.
Cabinet response – This is already part of contract management arrangements.	
6.8	A position statement be provided setting out the Council's current status with respect to DDA compliance of its key public buildings.
Cabinet response – Recommendation agreed.	
6.9	An analysis be prepared on the budgetary impact of the recent cold weather emergency on Transport.
Cabinet response - Issues will be highlighted during the finance and performance cycle.	