

CITY OF PLYMOUTH

Subject: The new Council's objectives

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 12 June 2012

Cabinet Member: Councillor Evans

CMT Member: Bob Coomber (Interim Chief Executive)

Author: Jonathan Fry
Senior Policy, Performance & Partnerships Adviser

Contact: Tel: 01752 304144
e-mail: jonathan.fry@plymouth.gov.uk

Ref:

Key Decision: No

Part: I

Executive Summary:

1. A new administration took control of the Council following the May elections. It wants to see the Council become a Cooperative Council and also a more open and transparent organisation. It has a number of commitments clustered under ten themes that it wants to see delivered over the next two years. It remains committed to the city's vision and four priorities, particularly growth. It recognises both where the Council has improved and the serious financial challenges that it faces, given the wider economic situation and pressure on public finances. The 2012-15 Corporate Plan (approved by Council in February 2012), will be revised to take account of the new administration's objectives and put to Council again on 30 July 2012.

Cooperative council model

2. The aim of the Cooperative Council is to create a strong sense of togetherness and ownership of council supported services, amenities and assets, so that they can be more effectively and efficiently used and support the delivery of the city's vision and growth agenda. It is a concept that will involve residents, service users, staff, partners and members with a strong focus on people's personal development and having a greater say over service delivery and how money is spent. The key components of the Cooperative Council are:
 - Devolving power and encouraging greater community engagement
 - Community ownership of assets and services
 - Greater control for individuals of the services they receive
 - Supporting social enterprises
 - Strengthening the community/voluntary sector
 - Building up community funds
 - Being part of a supportive Co-operative Council Network
 - Giving staff a real stake in their work

Open Plymouth

3. This is one of the new administration's ten themes and closely linked to the Cooperative Council concept. The emphasis is on opening up decision making, getting people more involved, giving people a stronger stake in the services they receive and amenities they use and improving communication and ways in which people can interact with the council.

Commitments

4. The new administration has a number of commitments that it wants to see implemented over the next two years. In line with the above commitment to open government, progress with delivering these commitments will be communicated to the media, customers and staff. As far as possible delivery will be through existing or planned programmes – e.g. elements of Caring Plymouth to be delivered through the Transforming Adult Social Care programme; or through business as usual and captured within departmental business plans.

Impact on vision and priorities

5. The new administration remains committed to the vision for Plymouth to be “one of Europe's finest, most vibrant waterfront cities where an outstanding quality of life can be enjoyed by everyone”. It is also committed to the four long-term priorities for the city that are now shared with partners:
 - Deliver growth
 - Raise aspirations
 - Reduce inequalities
 - Provide value for communities
6. These priorities are integral to the Co-operative Council concept:
 - The cooperative model, by encouraging people to take greater control over their services, by implication encourages and helps to raise aspirations
 - Cooperative models are seen as a vehicle for encouraging community regeneration, economic development and tackling worklessness, as part of a mixed economy approach to growth
 - Cooperative models, as pursued in other areas, are viewed as a way of addressing the fiscal tightening that is now a characteristic of public service provision, whilst maintaining service delivery and thereby providing value for communities
 - The cooperative focus on engagement, ownership, civic pride, individual and community resilience and regeneration are also seen as important ingredients for reducing inequality
7. Growth is given a particularly strong focus by the new administration and the Leader has the economic portfolio as part of his responsibilities.

Impact on Corporate and Departmental Business Plans

8. The Corporate Plan 2012-15 will be revised to take account of the Cooperative Council concept, commitment to open government and other themed commitments. Departmental business plans will also be revised to take account of the new situation.

Delivery

9. The new administration wants a strong focus on delivery within what are recognised as tight financial limits. It therefore wants to encourage innovation and provide the space for

customers, partners and staff to come up with ideas for change. There will also be a strong focus on programme management to address major challenges and to ensure finite resources are managed effectively, efficiencies achieved and benefits realised. The focus on open and transparent government is also intended to act as a spire to delivery.

10. The Cooperative Council concept, themed commitments and focus on open government will increasingly be reflected in the Forward Plan. Decisions to be made in the next few months include a review of our library services, a new Older Persons Charter for the citizens of Plymouth, an investigation into cooperative models for energy solutions, new models for green space management and the arrangements for the transfer of responsibility for public health to the Council. The Council will also be deciding on a new medium term financial strategy.

Corporate Plan 2012-2015

This plan will be revised and put to Council on 30 July 2012

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

A new medium term financial strategy is being prepared

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

The Corporate Plan and Departmental Business Plans address these issues

Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:

It is recommended that:

The Corporate Plan is revised to take account of the objectives of the new administration including the Cooperative Council concept, Open Council and other themed commitments and put to Council on 30 July 2012

Alternative options considered and reasons for recommended action:

The Corporate Plan sets the strategic direction for the council and brings together a range of related information in one place. This covering paper and proposal recognises that a new administration is now in place with a new mandate.

Background papers: None

Sign off

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