

CITY OF PLYMOUTH

Subject:	Revised Corporate Plan 2012-15
Committee:	Cabinet
Date:	12 July 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. The Corporate Plan 2012-15, passed by Council in February 2012, has been revised to take account of the objectives of the new administration that took control of the Council following the May elections. The revised plan, therefore, incorporates the focus on becoming a Cooperative Council and a more open and transparent organisation. It highlights the new administration's ten areas of themed commitments that it wants to see delivered over the next two years. The revised plan 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 – and it provides an outline of the revised Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Focus on the Co-operative Council

2. The revised Corporate Plan outlines the Council's focus on becoming a Cooperative Council and how this will impact on all parts of the organisation. The Co-operative Council approach is described as being about putting people in control of their own communities and the services they receive, as well as staff having a stronger stake in how services are improved. It is about working together co-operatively with residents, customers, partners and staff for the common good of the city. The key components of the Cooperative Council are outlined as:
 - 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

Focus on Open Plymouth and other themed commitments

3. The revised plan highlights the Council's commitment to more open government which includes 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.
4. The other themed commitments of the Council are summarised in the revised plan, together with their links to the four shared priorities. The top five commitments are:
 - A new plan for jobs, to get our young people back to work
 - Keep our roads and pavements clean and in good repair
 - Encourage more homes to be available to rent or buy
 - A new deal for older people's care
 - Campaigning to bring down crime and keep Plymouth safe

Focus on vision and priorities

5. The revised plan remains true 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 also retains the four long-term priorities for the city that are now shared with partners:
 - Deliver growth
 - Raise aspirations
 - Reduce inequalities
 - Provide value for communities

The revised plan stresses the need to focus more strongly on the growth agenda – a priority that has always been welcomed by business

Focus on other changes

6. The revised plan mentions that work is starting on developing organisational values for Plymouth as a Co-operative Council. The sustainability/low carbon section has been revised to make it more delivery focused. The sections on the new directorate structures remain, as it is still important that everyone is clear what these are for – with an additional focus on how they will support the new objectives

Further changes, amendments and future developments

7. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is conducting a pre-scrutiny of the revised Corporate Plan and will be making recommendations to Cabinet. There may, therefore, be some amendments to the attached draft dependent upon those recommendations and their acceptance by Cabinet. Any further minor changes to the text to ensure clarity of presentation will be within the Council Leader's discretion, supported by the lead officer.
8. Partner agencies and the public were invited to comment during the corporate and budget planning round that led to the Corporate Plan 2012-15 that was passed in February - the summary of their views has remained in the revised plan and helped formulate it. The commitment to the city vision and the four shared priorities has also been retained. Looking forward from now and beyond publication, more detailed discussions will be taking place with partners about what the Co-operative Council approach might mean for them and their working relationships with the Council. This will include the business sector and how the city ensures a strong mixed economy of social enterprise, private and public sector provision; as well as the impact of the co-operative concept at a community and neighbourhood level.

Corporate Plan 2012-2015

This plan revises the one that went to Council in February 2012, to reflect the new administration's focus

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

This plan summarises the revised medium term financial strategy

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

The Corporate Plan at a strategic level, Departmental Business Plans and other plans address these issues

Recommendations & Reasons for recommended action:

It is recommended that Cabinet recommend to Full Council the adoption of the revised Corporate Plan 2012-15 subject to any scrutiny recommendations accepted by Cabinet.

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. The revision exercise enables it to focus on the new administrations objectives, as well as those elements that form a continuation with the previous document.

Background papers: None

Sign off

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