

MEETING	THE FULL COUNCIL
DATE	2ND MAY, 2013
TITLE/SUBJECT	THE COUNCIL'S DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2013/17
RECOMMENDATION	To approve the draft plan
AUTHOR	Councillor Dyfed Edwards and the Head of Strategic and Improvement, Geraint George

Introduction

1. When adopting its Strategic Plan for the year for 2012/13, it was agreed that the Council would adopt a Strategic Plan for the remainder of the Council term, from 2013 to 2017.
2. The draft plan, that is a product of analysis, discussion and consultation work, is presented to the Cabinet and Part 3 of the plan itself expands upon the process of its preparation.

Reasons for the recommendation

3. Each Council must prepare an annual Improvement Plan outlining its "improvement objectives" for the year. The Strategic Plan does that and members will see that, in addition to noting the longer term results the Council is seeking to deliver, the plan therefore notes specifically what the Council plans to deliver in 2013/14.
4. The annual review of the plan seeks to ensure that in the context of those longer term results the Council is working towards in each thematic area.
5. It is important to note, as the Leader and Chief Executive state in the introduction to the plan that it is a living document, the clear emphasis in its development is that we must be alive to new opportunities and risks that can arise and also verify whether what we have committed to is making the difference intended. If that is not happening, we must be ready to stop an activity in order to redirect work and resources. Specifically, we will be looking for early opportunities to be clearer about some of the proposals that are developmental at the moment. The aim here is to be clearer as soon as possible about what we want to realise in the different fields and to move on to deliver clear and appropriate results for residents.

Relevant considerations

6. A clear consideration in adopting such a plan is the resources linked to its implementation. Appendix 2 to the plan summarises the Financial Strategy for the period of the plan and that appendix notes that provision has been made in that strategy to meet the resource requirements of the plan.
7. The Corporate Management Team has considered the resource implications linked to the commitments in the plan and can offer the assurance that there is sufficient provision in that strategy. Subject to the Council's approval of the plan, over the next few weeks, there will be rigorous challenging to verify the sums requested for individual schemes before releasing money for their implementation but this will not be an obstacle to the realisation of the commitments made in the plan.
8. In preparing the plan, considerable engagement and consultation work took place regarding the plan. As Part 3 of the plan reports, the initial engagement with residents about what should be addressed in the plan was quite a success. However, the consultation on the proposals was disappointing in terms of the numbers who took part and there are lessons here that the Council needs to consider as it develops its priority of improving the Council's engagement arrangements.
9. Early in the development of the priorities, consideration was given to equality and sustainability issues and that work will have been completed to be able to assure the Council on any matters it should be aware of in considering the adoption of the plan.
10. The Cabinet will have considered the draft plan at its meeting on 30th April and the recommendations of the Cabinet will be reported to the Council at the meeting

Next steps and timetable

11. The Council is invited to consider the draft plan before it with a view to its approval.