

27 February 2013		ITEM: 11
Council		
CORPORATE PLAN AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2013-16		
Report of: Leader of the Council, Cllr John Kent; Portfolio for Finance		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: n/a	
Accountable Head of Service: Steve Cox, Assistant Chief Executive; Sean Clark, Head of Corporate Finance		
Accountable Director: Steve Cox, Assistant Chief Executive; Martin Hone, Director of Finance and Corporate Governance		
This report is public		
Purpose of Report: To approve the Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy for the 2013-16.		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) is the Council's strategic planning document which sets out the Council's vision, principles and five strategic priorities. The Corporate Plan cascades the Community Strategy into the Council's corporate strategic planning process. The financial part of the plan shows how the Council intends to address the financial challenges it faces in delivering its priorities.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council:

1.1 Agree the Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2013-16

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

2.1 The Corporate Plan MTFS is a three year strategic plan, which will be updated annually and approved at Cabinet and Council in February each year. The Plan is the Council's core strategic planning document which outlines the Council's vision, principles and strategic priorities.

2.2 The financial part of the plan shows how the Council intends to address the financial challenges it faces in delivering its strategic priorities.

3. ISSUES, OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS:

3.1 The Corporate Plan / MTFS cascades the Community Strategy into the Council's corporate strategic planning process and informs the key service plans and objectives. The plan sets out the Council's strategic objectives for the next three years and how it will achieve those objectives. The Corporate Plan will be supported by a delivery plan which will be completed for agreement at April Cabinet. This will identify our Year 1 (2013-14) key deliverables (actions) and form the basis of the 2013-14 service plans.

3.2 The vision for Thurrock is set out in the Community Strategy:

Thurrock: A place of opportunity, enterprise and excellence,
where individuals, communities and businesses flourish

Within this there are five strategic priorities:

- **Create** a great place for learning and opportunity
- **Encourage** and promote job creation and economic prosperity
- **Build** pride, responsibility and respect to create safer communities
- **Improve** health and well-being
- **Protect** and promote our clean and green environment

3.3 The Medium Term Financial Strategy element details how the Council will meet the financial challenges in delivering the priorities over the three year term. The MTFS will demonstrate, at a high level how the Council intends to address the financial challenges identified in the Medium Term Financial Forecast (MTFF).

3.4 The Corporate Plan, Medium Term Financial Strategy and Corporate Delivery Plan can be seen at the appendices.

3.5 The Corporate Scorecard 2013-14 will be the main form of monitoring the key performance indicators and the delivery of the Year 1 key deliverables will be monitored through a mid year dashboard report. These will be finalised by the end of the municipal year and will be presented to Cabinet for agreement in April.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

4.1 As a lead partner in the delivery of the Community Strategy, it is vital that the Council is clear about how it will meet its obligations. This Corporate Plan/MTFS sets out the Council's strategic objectives for the next three years and how it will achieve those objectives.

5. CONSULTATION (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 This plan has been consulted upon widely amongst officers within the Council and with portfolio holders.
- 5.2 In addition, the Community Strategy, from which the high level priorities and objectives have been taken, was consulted upon extensively with local residents, local businesses, voluntary sector and faith partners.

6. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 6.1 The Corporate Plan and MTFs sets out the strategic direction of the Council, and how it contributes to the delivery of the Community Strategy. In addition, it also addresses how the Council will meet the financial challenges in delivering the priorities.

7. IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Mike Jones**
 Telephone and email: **01375 652772**
mxjones@thurrock.gov.uk

The financial implications are contained within the body of the report.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**
 Telephone and email: **01375 652087**
dlawson@thurrock.gov.uk

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report but such medium term planning will contribute to good corporate and financial governance as well as the prudent management of risk by the authority.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Billy Masters**
 Telephone and email: **01375 652959**
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The Corporate Plan includes high level objectives to ensure that the Council is addressing issues related to diversity and equality. The five strategic priorities are all relevant to the Council's statutory obligations relating to diversity and equality.

7.4 **Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental**

There are no other relevant implications.

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- Thurrock Community Strategy - http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/i-know/content.php?page=community_strategy

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:

- Corporate Plan & Medium Term Financial Strategy 2013-16

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