
REPORT TO:	FINANCE & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM:8
DATE OF MEETING:	20 MARCH 2014	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Director of Finance & Corporate Services Kevin Stackhouse (01283 595811) Kevin.stackhouse@south-derbys.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	CORPORATE ACTION PLAN 2014/15	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That Member's recommend the updated Corporate Action Plan for 2014/15, attached at Appendix A, to Council for approval.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 The Council has approved a five-year Corporate Plan covering the period 2010 to 2015. Quarterly performance reports are taken to Policy Committees to monitor progress against the Plan. It is important to review and update this Plan to take into account the progress made to date and any revisions to the targets agreed. This refreshed Action Plan is for 2014/15 and sets out the priorities for the year ahead along with the projects and the key measures of success that will be support the delivery of the Plan.

3.0 Detail

Background

- 3.1 The Corporate Plan is an integral part of the Council's Performance Management framework. The annual action plan set outs how the Council will deliver its main priorities together with key measures of success. This ensures that the Council's corporate objective and priorities for action are helping to achieve the Council's vision and are contributing to district wide community priorities.
- 3.2 The development of the Corporate Plan leads the development of the Medium Term Financial Strategy to ensure that the corporate priorities are resourced fully.

3.3 This 2010 to 2015 Corporate Plan continues to identify the key strategic priorities for the Council over the next two years. As Members will be aware, the development of the Corporate Plan followed an extensive consultation exercise with South Derbyshire, businesses, stakeholders, Partners and residents. This is supported by a robust process of quarterly monitoring of progress against these priorities.

4.0 Process of refreshing the Corporate Action Plan

4.1 The Council adopted the Corporate Plan in February 2009. The Plan contains the Council's vision, values and priorities over the four Council themes of

- Sustainable Growth & Opportunity
- Safe and Secure
- Lifestyle Choices
- Value for Money

4.2 The Corporate Plan provides clear strategic direction in the delivery of the Council's vision of "*Making South Derbyshire a better place to live, work and visit*".

4.3 The Council will refresh its Corporate Action Plan on an annual basis. This action plan helps to maintain the Corporate Plan's relevance and ensure that any issues impacting on the District and the Council are responded to in a timely and appropriate manner.

4.4 During January 2014, Officers have been involved in a series of facilitated workshops to refresh the Corporate Action Plan. Each workshop focussed on addressing one of the four themes within the Corporate Plan. The sessions held have been challenging and focussed on improving service delivery within the resources available. Each workshop has included a review of the:

- past year performance against priorities.
- issues coming out of recent consultations and national policy.
- financial position and budgets available to deliver these priorities.

As a result, the priorities in each theme have been updated along with the refreshment of projects and measures that will form the basis of the Corporate Action Plan for 2014/15 as shown in Appendix A.

4.5 The 2014/15 refreshed Corporate Action Plan continues the direction contained in the current Corporate Plan, including the four themes identified in paragraph 4.1 above.

4.6 Again, a number of proxy measures have been included, and are designed to illustrate information relevant to the Corporate Plan theme but which we have no overall control and thus cannot set targets. This information will be used to illustrate overall performance in a particular area, for example unemployment rates and may form part of the narrative explanation for other targets within the theme.

4.7 As with previous versions, the Corporate Action Plan details key measures and projects under each theme. These form the basis of the quarterly performance reporting to each Policy Committee. The changes made since last years Corporate Action Plan are detailed in paragraphs 4.8 and 4.9.

Changes to the Corporate Action Plan

4.8 The following changes have been made to the key projects

Sustainable Growth & Opportunity

Additions or amendments to existing projects

- Regulate businesses in a way which promotes success for South Derbyshire's economy, as well as continuing to provide public protection.
- Review the commercial waste service and analyse the potential for development
- Deliver the key actions contained in the Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy
- Provide a regulatory environment promoting success for businesses in South Derbyshire as well as continuing to provide public protection.
- Progress the South Derbyshire Local Plan

Safe and Secure

Additions or amendments to existing projects

- Revising the standards of the service of the environmental health service, based on national best practice and the demands of local stakeholders

Projects that have been removed

- Review, consider and implement the applicable requirements of the Localism Act, as it relates to the Housing service.
- Focus the Safer Neighbourhood Wardens on the prevention of anti-social behaviour and enviro-crime.

Lifestyle Choices

No Additions or amendments to existing projects

Value for Money

Additions or amendments to existing projects

- Implement the next stages of the Paper-lite Strategy
- Roll out the next stages of the Customer Access Strategy

Projects that have been removed

- Implementation of Welfare Reform and the new Local Council Tax Support Scheme
- Move towards a paperless Committee for Elected Members

4.9 The following changes have been made to the key performance measures.

Sustainable Growth & Opportunity

Measures that have been removed

- Total visitor spend (proxy)
- Total number of visitors (proxy).

Safe & Secure

No additions, amendments or removals of existing measures

Lifestyle Choices

No additions, amendments or removals of existing measures

Value for Money

Additions or amendments to existing measures

- Increase in New Homes Bonus & retained Business Rates
- On-going General Fund budget savings

Measures that have been removed

- Respond to 95% of all official complaints within 10 working days

4.10 As noted earlier in this report, priorities will continue to be monitored and reported to Policy Committees through the refreshed measures and projects contained in Appendix A.

Communications campaigns

4.11 The priorities contained within the refreshed Corporate Plan will be supported by a series of campaigns co-ordinated by the Policy & Communications Team. These campaigns will be presented to a future meeting of this Committee, as part of the Communications Annual Report. It should be noted that the campaigns will continue to support the delivery of the four key themes as identified above.

Risk Management

4.12 The Council's Risk Management Strategy also supports the delivery of the Corporate Plan. This Strategy commits the Council to minimise liabilities and costs while protecting the Council's reputation through effective and efficient risk management. The progress with the actions against high risks is monitored as part of the Council's combined performance and financial management reporting framework.

4.13 As part of the refresh process we have addressed the corporate risks through the delivery of these key projects and monitoring of the revised measures contained within this Plan. The main risks identified are listed below.

- Further reductions in Government Grant over and above those projected in the MTFP
- Continuing effects of the economic downturn
- Keeping pace with technology
- Business continuity
- Capacity and resilience in service provision
- Reliance on partner contributions and the voluntary sector

4.14 A revised corporate risk register is attached at Appendix B

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 As part of the development of the refreshed Corporate Action Plan, Officers have considered the Council's current financial position and commitment to delivering services in 2014/15.

6.0 Corporate Implications

- 6.1 The Corporate Plan is the vital element of the Council's performance management framework. It is the delivery mechanism that links the Council's vision with the needs of its communities and overall good governance.

7.0 Community Implications

- 7.1 The Corporate Plan has an impact on all aspects of community life within South Derbyshire, because it is built upon their needs and expectations. The Council is proud of its role as a community leader and will continue to deliver high quality services. However, it is also important to recognise the diverse range and needs of all of the communities and continue to work with key groups, stakeholders and businesses to make the District a better place to live, work and visit.

8.0 Conclusions

- 8.1 This refreshed Corporate Action Plan for 2014/15 reflects the needs and aspirations of the community, including that of Officers and leading Elected Members, by ensuring it remains fit for purpose. It will shape the delivery of Council services over the next year and ensure that resources are fully aligned to priority areas.
- 8.2 It is important that Elected Members, Officers and residents are provided with continued information on how the Plan is impacting on the community. This will be achieved through regular reports to Policy Committees, providing information on the Council's website, publicity campaigns and by communicating through a range of different media channels. Furthermore, the Council will continue to produce its Annual Report in order to highlight its achievements in the delivery of the Corporate Plan.