



COUNCIL

27TH FEBRUARY 2014

AGENDA ITEM (12)

CORPORATE STRATEGY AND CORPORATE PLAN - 2014/15 UPDATE

Accountable Member	Councillor Lynden Stowe Leader of the Council
Accountable Officer	Mike Clark Corporate Planning Manager 01285 623565 mike.clark@cotswold.gov.uk

Purpose of Report	To consider an update of the Corporate Strategy and Corporate Plan for 2014/15.
CABINET Recommendation	That the updated Corporate Strategy and Corporate Plan 2012-15 be approved
Reason(s) for Recommendation(s)	To produce an updated Corporate Strategy and Corporate Plan which outline the Council's progress to date and the Top Tasks for 2014/15.

Ward(s) Affected	All
Key Decision	Yes
Recommendation to Council	N/A

Financial Implications	The 2014/15 Update has been developed having regard to the Council's financial position, and is considered to be achievable within budget.
Legal and Human Rights Implications	None identified,
Environmental and Sustainability Implications	The 2014/15 Update refers to environment and sustainability issues. Detailed proposals arising from the Corporate Strategy and Corporate Plan will be individually assessed as they are developed.
Human Resource Implications	The Priorities and Top Tasks in the 2014/15 Update have a variety of human resources implications which will be assessed as detailed proposals are developed.
Key Risks	Detailed proposals arising from the 2014/15 Update will undergo individual risk assessments as they are developed.

Equalities Analysis	An Equality Analysis of the Corporate Strategy and Plan 2012-15, published in 2012, was carried out and no adverse effect on protected groups was identified. It is not considered necessary to carry out a further Equality Analysis on the 2014/15 Update. Detailed proposals arising from the update will be individually equality assessed if it is considered necessary.
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Related Decisions	Approval of Corporate Strategy and Corporate Plan 2012-15 - Cabinet 2 nd February 2012 and Council 28 th February 2012 Approval of 2013/14 Update - Cabinet 6 th June 2013 and Council 9 th July 2103
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Background Documents	None
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Appendices	Appendix 'A' - Draft Corporate Strategy and Corporate Plan Update 2014/15
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Performance Management Follow Up	The original Corporate Strategy and Plan 2012-15, and this Update, form the basis of the Council's Service Delivery Plans and performance management processes. The Audit and Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet will receive quarterly reports on the Top Tasks for the year and any concerns about performance indicators or other key tasks. The measurement of the Council's aim takes place once a year.
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Options for Joint Working	This is an update to the Corporate Strategy and Plan for this Council only. However, there are proposals within the top tasks develop joint working
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Background Information	
<p>1. In February 2012, the Council agreed its Corporate Strategy and Corporate Plan for the period 2012 to 2015. That was updated in 2013/14, when the Council's Aim and Priorities were confirmed as follows:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Aim - To be recognised as the most efficient Council in the country</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Priorities:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Freeze Council Tax until 2016 whilst protecting front line services that matter to our residents; 2. Maintain and protect our environment as one of the best places to live, work and visit; 3. Work with local communities to help them help themselves. <p>2. A draft Update of the Corporate Strategy and Corporate Plan for 2014/15 is attached at Appendix 'A'. The draft Update includes a summary of how the Council is addressing the challenges it is facing; a re-statement of the Council's Aim and Priorities; progress in respect of the most efficient Council indicators; and the Top Tasks for 2014/15. This document is commended to the Council by the Cabinet, who considered this matter at its Meeting held on 6th February 2014.</p>	

3. The Update sets out the 'basket' of indicators which are used to measure progress towards the Council's Aim to be recognised as the most efficient Council in the country. Last year, a baseline was established against which the Council would be able to measure future improvements. The Council's overall baseline ranking was 9 out of 201 Shire District Councils (low is good). One year on, we have repeated the exercise and the Council's overall ranking position has improved - from ninth to fifth.

4. In order to produce the rankings, data ideally needs to be available for each of the 201 Shire Districts. With the exception of sickness absence rates, the data is freely available in the public domain. Sickness absence rates were obtained from a variety of sources, including performance reports/websites and e-mail communications. The data are published at different frequencies and time schedules, and some of the datasets are not available until several months after the end of the financial year.

5. Datasets are generally complete. However, in those cases where data has not been published for an individual council (due to data quality issues), the median value has been used. In addition, where councils are sharing services, outturns are not always available for each individual council, for example, where councils have developed waste partnerships.

6. Benchmarking data for the baseline plus two years will become available over the next year, and a further progress report will be submitted next Spring. In future, Members may wish to review the efficiency measures in the 'basket'.

7. Performance Monitoring - over the past year, the Council has also monitored performance in respect of its three Priorities and other aspects of its operation. This, together with the efficiency measures, provides a more rounded picture of how the Council is performing. That will be reported to future Meetings of the Audit and Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet as part of the 2013/14 year-end Financial/Service Performance report.

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