

REPORT TO: Corporate Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 6th September 2011
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Policy and Resources
SUBJECT: Draft Corporate Plan 2011- 2016
WARDS: All

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with a further opportunity for overview and scrutiny of the new Halton Corporate Plan 2011- 2016. The Draft Plan is included as Appendix 1 to this report.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) The Draft Plan is scrutinised in terms of the suggested Areas of Focus and activities under each thematic area.
- (2) Subject to any amendments required, the Board recommends adoption of the Draft Plan by the Executive Board.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Corporate Plan sets out the goals the Council wants to achieve to help build a better future for Halton, redefines our priorities, and explains how we will deploy our resources. The Corporate Plan also presents the Council's contribution to the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) 2011-26. It concentrates on the challenges, priorities and achievements planned over the next five years to help improve the quality of life for people in Halton. It will guide the development of more detailed strategy and actions to be undertaken by the Council (see Section 4).

- 3.2 Our vision remains constant:

Halton will be a thriving and vibrant Borough where people can learn and develop their skills; enjoy a good quality of life with good health; a high quality, modern urban environment; the opportunity for all to fulfil their potential; greater wealth and equality, sustained by a thriving business community; and safer, stronger and more attractive neighbourhoods.

- 3.3 This vision remains a pledge to secure a better future for the people of Halton. It is about giving everyone the opportunity to fulfil their potential and the Council will work vigorously to see this vision realised. To achieve our vision we are committed to closing the gap between those communities most in need in Halton, compared to the rest of the

country. We will do this by tackling inequality and promoting community cohesion, so that no community is disadvantaged.

3.4 The Plan explains the steps that the Council will take in order to deliver on both the Vision and the strategic priorities and key themes set out within Halton's fifteen year Sustainable Community Strategy 2011 – 2026. These are:

- A Healthy Halton
- Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton
- A Safer Halton
- Halton's Children and Young People
- Environment and Regeneration in Halton

An additional priority to the five contained in the SCS has been added:

- Corporate Effectiveness and Efficiency

This relates specifically to the delivery of Council service delivery as distinct from the partnership objectives of the SCS. .

3.5 A series of Performance Measures are currently under development which will cover the Sustainable Community Strategy, Corporate Plan and Service Plans. These measures will be reported separately to PPB.

3.6 **Consultation**

The SCS (adopted April 2011) has been produced through extensive research, analysis, and policy formulation. This process was followed by wide consultation with Elected Members and partners to identify key themes and related strategic objectives. This has included reporting on the detail of the emerging SCS to all Policy and Performance Boards during the September 2010 meeting cycle. An extensive public consultation took place 29 Nov–24 Jan 2011.

3.7 A draft Corporate plan has previously been circulated for Member consultation between 20 May and 17 June 2011.

3.8 A further round of consultation for Members and Operational Directors took place during July. All comments made have been included into the Draft Plan appearing in Appendix 1.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Corporate Plan forms part of a key suite of documents for the Council starting from the Sustainable Community Strategy and running down to Service Plans. It sets out the Council's contribution towards achieving the key objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy, as well as looking at how we will deploy our own resources effectively and efficiently.

- 4.2 A range of more specific strategies and initiatives will translate the broad aims and objectives of this Plan into action on the ground.
- 4.3 The Corporate Plan has been developed with reference to, and links into other key Council documents such as the Core Strategy, Children and Young People's Plan, State of the Borough Report and Local Transport Plan 3. A full list of plans is included on Page 37 of the document.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Corporate Plan sets out the key themes, objectives and areas of focus for Council activity which are felt to make the maximum difference in improving quality of life in Halton and sets out what, within available resources we hope to achieve over the next five years. These activities must be resources and the Plan therefore has financial implications.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCILS PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The Corporate Plan presents Halton Borough Council's response to how it will help to implement the Sustainable Community Strategy 2011-26. Children and Young People is therefore identified as a priority within the Corporate Plan.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The Corporate Plan presents Halton Borough Council's response to how it will help to implement the Sustainable Community Strategy 2011-26. Employment, Learning and Skills is therefore identified as a priority within the Corporate Plan.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The Corporate Plan presents Halton Borough Council's response to how it will help to implement the Sustainable Community Strategy 2011-26. A Healthy Halton is therefore identified as a priority within the Corporate Plan.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The Corporate Plan presents Halton Borough Council's response to how it will help to implement the Sustainable Community Strategy 2011-26. A Safer Halton is therefore identified as a priority within the Corporate Plan.

6.5 Environment & Regeneration in Halton

The Corporate Plan presents Halton Borough Council's response to how it will help to implement the Sustainable Community Strategy 2011-26. Environment & Regeneration in Halton is therefore identified as a priority within the Corporate Plan.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The Corporate Plan has been developed as the Council response to the issues contained within the Sustainable Community Strategy, which has been developed through extensive consultation with both the community and partners.

7.2 This Plan has been developed at a time of considerable challenge for local authorities brought about by significant public spending cuts and changes in the way public services are delivered, with considerable changes still underway. Consequently, care has been taken to ensure that the activities contained in this Plan are realistic and achievable within expected resources, whilst remaining sufficiently challenging to make a real difference to people's lives and meet residents' expectations.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 The Equality Act 2010 brings together into one Act all previous legislation around Equality and Diversity. Under the Duty a public authority must, in carrying out its functions, take into account the need to: -

- (a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conflict that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010.
- (b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- (c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

8.2 The Act defines a number of characteristics which are protected: -

- (a) Age
- (b) Disability
- (c) Gender reassignment
- (d) Marriage and civil partnership
- (e) Pregnancy and maternity
- (f) Race
- (g) Religion or belief
- (h) Sex
- (i) Sexual orientation

8.3 The Corporate Plan has been developed bearing in mind the requirements of the Equality Act and the new Public Sector Equality Duty and an Equality Impact Assessment will be completed for the Corporate Plan.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTIONS 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.