

THE ASSEMBLY

7 JUNE 2006

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

Title: Futures 2006 / 2007 – Barking and Dagenham’s Corporate Plan	For Decision
<p>Summary:</p> <p>This report asks the Assembly to approve the narrative of Futures 2006 / 2007 Corporate Plan. The Plan is a statutory one which sets out how the Council has performed in the previous year and sets out its priorities for the future. The target audience for the plan is Heads of Service, Service Managers and our Partners. The document will be accessible to the public through our website but they are not the intended audience.</p> <p>The Plan is the overall strategy for the Council that will help to delivery the Community Priorities and the 2020 Vision for the Borough.</p> <p>Please note. The document the Assembly is being asked to approve is now currently with our design consultants who will design the layout and add in photographs prior to its statutory website publication date of 30 June 2006.</p> <p>Wards Affected: All</p>	
<p>Implications:</p> <p>Financial:</p> <p>There are no direct financial implications of this report, as it is concerned with the overall strategy of the Council. However, integration with the Council's financial and resource planning is vital for the achievement of the corporate plan, and this document links to the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy. This integration will be assessed and developed throughout the year by the service efficiency and financial planning board.</p> <p>Legal:</p> <p>All Council’s are under a statutory requirement to produce a Best Value Performance Plan by 30 June (Futures - Corporate Plan). In order to comply with this requirement the Corporate Plan requires Council agreement. The Council would be in breach of its duty, under Best Value legislation, if this plan is not made public on 30 June.</p> <p>Risk Management:</p> <p>The Plan has been put together with all departments of the Council and has been overseen by CMT to ensure the right focus.</p>	

Social Inclusion and Diversity:

The Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 places a requirement on local authorities to make an assessment of the impact of new and revised policies in terms of race equality. Existing policies have already been subjected to impact assessments. This Authority has adopted an approach of extending the impact to cover gender, disability, sexuality, faith, age and community cohesion.

A Policy Proofing process has been introduced to assess such impacts and the outcome insofar as this report is concerned proportionally, the impact of the document is of a low level, since it provides a summary of information on Council policy and progress, agreed and reported at other forums in the Council. These have a far greater impact and bearing on the lives of the Borough's diverse population, than this document. The Plan sets out progress and plans in relation to the community priority of promoting equal opportunities and diversity.

Crime and Disorder:

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a responsibility on local authorities to consider the crime and disorder implications of any proposals. In relation to this report the plan is an overarching strategy which provides information on the Council's focus for the next 12-18 months, the key strategies and processes through which the Council will deliver improvements. It also provides a summary of the Council's performance in relation to the statutory Best Value Performance Indicators, local indicators, the community priorities - cleaner, greener, safer in this case and other relevant areas of service performance, such as housing and social services and the Comprehensive Performance Assessment.

Options Appraisal:

Not applicable

Recommendations

The Assembly is asked to:

1. Consider and approve the Plan for publication, subject to any comments it wishes to make; and
2. Allow other small changes or amendments that are required in order to ensure the plan complies with statutory requirements.

Reasons

It is a statutory requirement that the corporate plan is approved by the Assembly prior to its publication date of 30 June 2006.

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1. Consultees

1.1 The following were consulted in the preparation of this report:

- Rob Whiteman, Chief Executive
- Leader of the Council, Councillor Fairbrass
- John Tatam, Corporate Director of Resources
- Roger Luxton, Corporate Director of Children's Services
- Paul Field, Principal Solicitor
- John Hooton (Finance)

Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

- Futures 2005/2006 – Barking and Dagenham's Corporate Plan.
- Addendum to ODPM Circular 02/2004 – Local Government Act 1999: Part 1 Best Value and Performance Improvement – guidance on Best Value Performance Plans.