

## ASSEMBLY

22 FEBRUARY 2012

<b>Title:</b> Statement of Priorities 2012/13	
<b>Report of the Leader of the Council</b>	
<b>Open report</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> No
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<b>Accountable Divisional Director:</b> Heather Wills, Divisional Director Corporate Policy & Public Affairs	
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Stella Manzie, Chief Executive	
<b>Summary:</b>  A draft Statement of Priorities 2012/13 has been prepared which summarises the Council's aims over the coming year based on the Policy House, and is set in the context of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.  The Cabinet considered the matter at its meeting on 14 February 2012 and recommended the Assembly to adopt the Statement of Priorities 2012/13 at <b>Appendix 1</b> to this report.	
<b>Recommendation(s)</b>  Assembly is recommended to approve the Statement of Priorities 2012/13 attached as Appendix 1 to this report.	
<b>Reason(s)</b>  The Statement of Priorities 2012/13 sets out the overarching aims of the Council, and contributes to a well-run organisation.	

### 1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 It is good corporate governance to have a statement or plan which sets out the aims and major activities which the organisation will focus on and achieve over the coming year. The statement should be driven by the Council's overarching policy framework (the 'Policy House') and set in the context of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

- 1.2 The Council Plan for 2011/12 can be seen here:  
<http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/CouncilandDemocracy/MeetingsAndPlans/Pages/Councilplans.aspx>

## **2. Proposal and Issues**

- 2.1 A draft Statement of Priorities for 2012/13 has been prepared and appears at Appendix 1. It cannot aim to capture the whole span of activity in an organisation which delivers services as wide-ranging as the Council, but it seeks to highlight the most significant areas of work underway, particularly focusing on the Council's key aims of:
- raising household incomes
  - raising standards in school and post-16 education and
  - housing and estate renewal.
- 2.2 The statement sets out the strategic direction and focus of the Council and will inform team and individual action plans and targets, as part of the Council's performance management framework.

## **3. Options Appraisal**

- 3.1 There is no legal requirement to prepare a statement of priorities, however, it is good governance to do so.

## **4. Consultation**

- 4.1 This statement has been informed by divisional business plans, which in turn have been informed by public consultation in relation to relevant services and with the relevant Portfolio Holders.

## **5. Financial Implications**

Implications verified by: Kathy Freeman, Group Manager Corporate Finance

- 5.1 The approved budget for 2012/13 reflects the Council's priorities and therefore the aims within the statement of priorities. The budgets will be monitored throughout the year to ensure priorities are delivered within the approved amount and any variations reported to Cabinet.

## **6. Legal Implications**

Implications verified by: Tasnim Shawkat, Divisional Director Legal and Democratic Services

- 6.1 There are no specific legal implications associated with this report.

## **7. Other Implications**

- 7.1 **Risk Management** - The identification of clear priorities and actions to deliver against the priorities is part of a robust approach to risk management. Major risks associated with key activities are reflected in the corporate risk register, and risks of non-delivery of all actions are monitored through directorate risk management.

- 7.2 **Contractual Issues** - Any contractual issues relating to actions within the statement will be addressed as part of the delivery plan for each project or action.
- 7.3 **Staffing Issues** - Any staffing issues relating to actions within the statement will be addressed as part of the delivery plan for each project or action.
- 7.4 **Customer Impact** - The priorities and actions to achieve them identified in the action plan have been developed in response to customer consultation over a period of years. Equalities Impact Assessments are in place or in development to ensure that the needs of groups of people with particular needs are met as services are developed.
- 7.5 **Safeguarding Children** - The statement lists the larger scale and more transformational activities planned by the Council for the coming year. In addition to these activities, work will continue to achieve the outcome of 'a borough that safeguards children, young people and vulnerable adults'.
- 7.6 **Health Issues** - The statement reflects the high level activity in relation to changes in public health and health transition including the development of a Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 7.7 **Crime and Disorder Issues** - The statement refers to ongoing high level activity to address crime and disorder issues in the borough.

#### **Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:**

- Council Plan 2011/12  
<http://www.lbbd.gov.uk/CouncilandDemocracy/MeetingsAndPlans/Pages/Councilplans.aspx>
- "Statement of Priorities 2012/13" report and minute, Cabinet 14 February 2012

#### **List of appendices:**

Appendix 1: draft Statement of Priorities 2012/13