

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

15 May 2013

Title: Community Strategy 2013 - 2016 and Corporate Plan 2013/14	
Report of the Leader of the Council	
Open Report	For Decision
Wards Affected: All	Key Decision:
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Accountable Divisional Director: n/a	
Accountable Director: Graham Farrant, Chief Executive	
Summary: This report sets out the vision and priorities for Barking and Dagenham in the Community Strategy and Corporate Plan. It explains how they have been developed by drawing together the priorities of the Council, as the community leader for the borough, and its partners. The vision for the borough outlined in the Community Strategy (Appendix 1) and the Corporate Plan (Appendix 2) is: “Encourage growth and unlock the potential of Barking and Dagenham and its residents” The five priorities are: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ensure every child is valued so that they can succeed2. Reduce crime and the fear of crime3. Improve health and wellbeing through all stages of life4. Creating thriving communities by maintaining and investing in high quality homes5. Maximise growth opportunities and increase the income of borough residents The Cabinet considered the documents at its meeting on 16 April 2013 and has endorsed their adoption by the Assembly.	
Recommendation(s) The Assembly is recommended to approve: (i) The draft Community Strategy 2013-16 attached at Appendix 1 to the report; and (ii) The draft Corporate Plan 2013/14 attached at Appendix 2 to the report.	
Reason(s) Although there is no longer a statutory requirement to produce either a Community	

Strategy or a Corporate Plan it is good governance to frame the vision for the borough with partners and agree the Council's policy priorities to inform decision making and allocation of resources.

1 Introduction

1.1 The vision and priorities for Barking and Dagenham have been developed by drawing together the priorities of the Council, as the community leader for the borough, and its partners. These priorities were identified from the:

- Council Statement of Priorities 2012/13
- Partner theme board strategies/action plans
- Annual conference of partners held in November 2012

1.2 The vision for the borough is "Encourage growth and unlock the potential of Barking and Dagenham and its residents".

The five priorities are:

- 1) Ensure every child is valued so that they can succeed
- 2) Reduce crime and the fear of crime
- 3) Improve health and wellbeing through all stages of life
- 4) Creating thriving communities by maintaining and investing in high quality homes
- 5) Maximise growth opportunities and increase the income of borough residents

1.3 The vision for the borough and its underlying priorities and principles enable all organisations in the borough to work towards a shared goal. In addition a consistent message can be given to the communities of Barking and Dagenham about what is happening to create a better life for all.

2. Community Strategy 2013 - 16

2.1 The Community Strategy explains partners' ambitions for the borough of Barking and Dagenham. It does not try to solve everything; rather it clearly confirms that partners have agreed to focus on the delivery of the borough vision and priorities. This does not mean that other work ceases, but it enables partners to deliver services and messages consistently, promoting the borough on a local and national level.

2.2 The strategy was written in consultation with partners at the Annual Conference in 2012 and by combining the plans and strategies of the existing partner boards. These are the:

- Children and Young People's Plan 2012 – 16
- Community Safety Partnership Plan 2011 – 14
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2012 – 15
- Economic Regeneration Strategy 2013 – 16
- LBBB Housing Strategy 2012 - 2017

2.3 Partners are each responsible for helping to achieve the shared vision and priorities within their individual organisations.

2.4 The development of a Community Strategy follows changes made in the summer of 2012 when partners felt that the economic challenges and resulting impact on resources were making it more difficult to commit to the number of meetings scheduled to deliver partnership work. It was agreed to reduce the number of boards that operated.

2.5 The boards deleted in September 2012 were:

- Local Strategic Partnership Board
- Public Service Board
- Clean, Green and Sustainable Borough Board.

2.6 By removing these boards a bureaucratic burden has been reduced. However a gap in how the borough-wide challenges should be dealt with in partnership had developed. At an annual conference, held in November 2012, attendees agreed that the workshop discussions should inform the development of a new Community Strategy and the priorities for the borough. In addition it should be the place where the past achievements of the partners and the priorities are reviewed annually.

3. Corporate Plan 2013/14

3.1 The Corporate Plan identifies the Council's high level policy priorities for the coming year and how they will be monitored. It is not an action plan intended to capture all of the activities of the Council. It will replace the Statement of Priorities 2012/13 and the Policy House which tried to cover all the Council services and responsibilities.

3.2 It is important that the Corporate Plan reflects the current changing circumstances of the borough such as the new Public Health responsibilities that the Council will have from April 2013, the ongoing pressure on the budget as a result of reduced funding from Government as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy and responding to significant and fast paced population change. The borough vision and priorities are intended to reflect this, building on the Council's previous priorities to raise household income, raising standards in school and post-16 education, and housing and estate renewal.

3.3 Progress will be monitored by identifying key indicators within the existing Performance House to establish a set of measures for 2013/14 that reflect the priorities, which will be reviewed by Cabinet on at least a quarterly basis.

4. Consultation

4.1 The Community Strategy was developed in consultation with partners at the annual conference in November 2012 and CMT in January 2013. In addition partners and Councillors were given the opportunity to feedback on the draft strategy in January 2013.

4.2 The Corporate Plan was developed in consultation with CMT and builds on the Statement of Priorities 2012/13 agreed by Assembly in February 2012. In addition a draft version was circulated to all Councillors and the responses received have been incorporated into this final draft.

4.3 The Cabinet endorsed the adoption of the documents at its meeting on 16 April 2013.

5. Financial Implications

Implications prepared by: Martin Henwood, Deputy Chief Finance Officer

- 5.1 The Corporate Plan reflects the Council's context and priorities, and then identifies at a high level the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) as to how these will be funded.
- 5.2 Complementary to this is the Community Strategy, and this, together with the work that went into creating it, is a key driver in helping the Council to determine its priorities and how these can be delivered. The impact of this is reflected in the derivation of the MTFS.

6. Legal Implications

Implications prepared by: Paul Feild, Corporate Governance Solicitor

- 6.1 The final determination of the Corporate Plan is an Assembly Function. The Council's Constitution at Part B Article 2 paragraph 2.1 requires that the Assembly agrees the Corporate Plan.
- 6.2 In establishing the Corporate Plan in accordance with local government practice the Cabinet's role is to establish the final proposals in the Plan for the Assembly's consideration and approval. Once the Assembly approves and adopts the Plan, the responsibility for implementation will rest with Cabinet.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1 **Risk Management** - The Corporate Plan clearly describes how risks are mitigated by linking with the Corporate Risk Register.
- 7.2 **Contractual Issues** - Any contractual issues relating to delivering activities to meet borough priorities will be identified and dealt with in individual project plans.
- 7.3 **Staffing Issues** - There are no specific staffing implications. Work has been refocused from servicing boards (e.g. Public Service Board) to delivering the Corporate Plan, Community Strategy and conference.
- 7.4 **Customer Impact** - The joined up approach to developing a shared vision for the borough will improve the customer experience in the borough because the services provided across all sectors will be striving to achieve the same aims.
- 7.5 **Safeguarding Children** - The priority "Ensure every child is valued so that they can succeed" encompasses activities to safeguard children in the borough and is delivered through the Local Safeguarding Children Board and Children's Trust.
- 7.6 **Health Issues** - The priority "Improve health and wellbeing through all stages of life" will ensure that there are activities to prevent and cure health issues in the borough and are delivered through the Health and Wellbeing Board.

7.7 **Crime and Disorder Issues** - The priority “Reduce crime and the fear of crime” encompasses activities to tackle crime and disorder issues and will be delivered through the Community Safety Partnership.

Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

- Children and Young People’s Plan 2012 – 16
- Community Safety Partnership Plan 2011 – 14
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2012 – 15
- Economic Regeneration Strategy 2013 – 16
- LBBB Housing Strategy 2012 - 2017

List of appendices:

Appendix 1: Draft Community Strategy 2013-16

Appendix 2: Draft Corporate Plan 2013/14