

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

COUNCIL

Date	01 MARCH 2012
Title	CORPORATE PLAN 2012-15

1. PURPOSE/SUMMARY

For Council to consider and approve Fenland’s Corporate Plan 2012-15.

2. KEY ISSUES

- The Corporate Plan 2012-15 identifies our key challenges and opportunities for Fenland over the next three years. We are committed, along with our partners, to work with residents, community groups and businesses to overcome the key challenges in the district and seize upon any opportunities to improve quality of life for local residents and make Fenland a great place to live, work and visit for years to come.
- As with all public sector agencies, the Council faces serious financial challenges and has had to take some tough decisions. During these difficult financial times, we will maintain our commitment to providing excellent customer service and endeavour to minimise the effect on frontline services.
- Although the current financial situation is difficult, there are still opportunities for the Council, with its partners, to make a difference within the district through attracting inward investment. This includes exciting new initiatives such as the South Fens Business Centre Phase 3, Chatteris Leisure facilities and the new engineering skills centre at the College of West Anglia Isle Campus.
- This proactive work with our partners is also reflected in our ambitious Fenland Communities Development Plan, the Core Strategy which sets out a vision to deliver improved quality of life and increase prosperity through a positive and sustainable approach to growth in the next 20 years.
- The Corporate Plan has been informed by public consultation on the Council’s corporate priorities.
- A new basket of performance indicators will be developed to ensure the effective delivery of outcomes to the community through the Corporate Plan.

3. RECOMMENDATION(S)

For Council to consider and approve Fenland’s Corporate Plan 2012-15.

Wards Affected	All
Forward Plan Reference No. (if applicable)	
Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Melton – Leader of the Council
Report Originator	Carol Pilson, Head of Policy and Communications
Contact Officer(s)	Paul Medd, Chief Executive Rob Bridge, Corporate Director Carol Pilson, Head of Policy and Communications
Background Paper(s)	Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2012-15

1. BACKGROUND/INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Corporate Plan 2012-15 sets out the Council's priorities and objectives for the next three years taking into account national and regional policy, demographic information and consultation information.
- 1.2. The Council completes an annual consultation programme to ensure that the Council's priorities reflect the needs and preferences of the local community. This year, the consultation was conducted in the form of a questionnaire which asked residents to select the six things they feel are most important in making Fenland a good place to live and the six least important.
- 1.3. The questionnaire was distributed throughout the district in the following outlets:
 - Fenland @ your service shops
 - Business reception
 - Three leisure centres
 - Community House.
 - South Fens and Boathouse Business Centres
 - An online questionnaire was available on the Fenland District Council website
- 1.4 The Corporate Plan has been informed by the consultation results on the Council's priorities. The issues considered to be the three most important by Fenland residents were:
 - Emptying your rubbish bins and keeping streets clean
 - Keeping people safe in their neighbourhood
 - Good public transport links

2. CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1. The Corporate Plan 2012-15 is a three year plan; however, it is reviewed on an annual basis.

3. EFFECT ON CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The Corporate Plan 2012-15 sets out the Council's corporate objectives for the next three years. There are three overarching social, economic and environmental considerations which inform our five priority headings:
 - Neighbourhood Planning
 - Localism
 - Streets Ahead
 - Open for Business
 - Quality Organisation
- 3.2. Throughout the Corporate Plan we focus on how we can meet these priorities, whilst acknowledging the financial challenges the whole of the public sector faces.

4. IMPLICATIONS

4.1. Financial and Value for Money

- 4.1.1. All financial and value for money implications for the achievement of the priorities set out in the Corporate Plan 2012-15 will be considered as a part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and General Fund Budget 2012-15.
- 4.1.2 The Coalition government has set a public sector spending reduction programme which will impact on the Council's budget. Whilst making these savings, we will manage our resources effectively, look for innovative ways to make efficiencies and remain committed to minimising effects on frontline services.
- 4.1.3 Although the Use of Resources assessment has been abolished, this will be replaced with an audit regarding our arrangements to deliver value for money, financial risk and financial resilience. In December 2011, the Council received a positive Annual Audit Letter highlighting the significant achievements made during the year, particularly in regard to the change to the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) accounting requirements.

4.2. Risk Management

- 4.2.1. The Corporate Plan 2012-15 contains no specific information on risk management, however, any risks concerning the achievement of the Corporate Plan will be considered as a part of the annual service planning process, and therefore documented within the corporate risk register. This is monitored regularly by Corporate Governance Committee.

4.3. Equalities

- 4.3.1. The Corporate Plan 2012-15 aims to improve the quality of life of all Fenland residents and we are committed to fulfilling any organisational requirements set out in the Equality Act 2010 to achieve this end.
- 4.3.2 In line with the Council's Communications Strategy, copies of this plan can be prepared in community languages, Braille and other accessible formats upon request.