

PAPER NO.4

REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE MEETING OF 23 JANUARY 2012

Meeting: Executive
Date: 23rd January 2012
Subject: Portfolio Development Plans 2012/13
Report of: Deputy Chief Executive
Portfolio Holder: All Portfolio Holders
Status: Decision

1 Purpose Report

- 1.1 To consider and agree the draft Portfolio Development Plans for 2012/13 and refer to Scrutiny for comment. Feedback from Scrutiny will be considered by the Executive at its meeting on 13th February 2012.

2 Recommendations:

- 2.1 **That the Portfolio Development Plans, as set out in Appendix A, be approved and referred to the Scrutiny Panel for Resources Development on 9th February 2012 to which the members of the Places and People Scrutiny Panels have also been invited to undertake a joint Scrutiny of all the Portfolio Development Plans.**

3 Summary of Reasons for the Recommendations

- 3.1 The portfolio plans have been compiled by members of Management Board working with the relevant portfolio holder.
- 3.2 Portfolio Development Plans set out the aims of each Executive Portfolio and the plans for 2012/13 based on the available resources identified through the business planning process. These need to be considered and agreed by members. The next stage is for these draft plans to be considered by the members of the Scrutiny Panels. Comments from Scrutiny will be reported to the Executive on the 13th February 2012 and recommendations will then go forward to Council on 23rd February 2012.
- 3.3 The portfolio plans also identify planned portfolio actions for 2012-13 as well as performance measures, risks, equality impact assessments and planned consultation.

4 Impact on Communities

- 4.1 The Portfolio Development Plans have been drawn up to include actions that will arise from the Transformation Programme. Although the detail is not known at this stage as the transformation Programme has just commenced the actions or outcomes from the programme may have a direct impact on communities in the way that the Council operates and may operate in the future.
- 4.2 Also, the implementation of the various provisions of the Localism Act 2011, the detailed implementation of the National Planning Framework, the outcome of the Local Government Resource Review which will set in place a new system of funding local government and the new system of support towards council tax with a 10% cut in the grant from central government to local authorities which will replace the current council tax benefits system will have an impact on the Communities. The relevant portfolio development plans include references and specific actions arising.
- 4.3 In overall terms all the actions in the portfolio development plans are identified to ensure either compliance with legislation and/or to improve the way the Council operates and delivers its services to the communities.

5 Key Facts

- 5.1 For 2012/13 Portfolio Holders and members of Management Board have been considering the changing environment in local government with significant new legislation being enacted and continuing financial squeeze in local government funding both at a national level and the local level and developing the Council's response to it. At this stage in the budget setting process a breakdown of budgets against each portfolio plan is not included due to the way that the Portfolios fall across a number of Heads of Services responsibilities and the way that the budget is constructed. The construction of each Portfolio budget requires a significant amount of manual input which is currently underway and cannot be finalised until the Council agrees the budget on 23rd February 2012.
- 5.2 The Transformation Programme has commenced and the rationale for its business case is to:
- Revitalise the organisation (injecting energy and new approaches)
 - Engage with the community (focusing on people and asking them what they want)
 - Strengthen accountability (both democratic and officer leadership)
 - Become more efficient (and continue to improve in the future)

In achieving the above objectives the Programme through its various workstreams will deliver the savings that are required to balance the budget annually with savings of between £3m and £6m over the next five years with ongoing savings of £1.2m per annum from year 6 onwards.

- 5.3 Shared services are already in place for revenues and benefits, legal, equalities, internal audit, procurement and emergency planning.

6 Legal Issues

- 6.1 The Council Plan and the Portfolio Development Plans will feed into the Council's budget setting process. The budget will be set in accordance with the Council's Constitution, and the expenditure proposed will be within the statutory powers of the Council.
- 6.2 Where ceasing or reducing an activity involves changes to terms and conditions, redundancy or redeployment, the implementation of those changes must comply with employment law.

7 Resource Issues

- 7.1 The Portfolio Development Plans have been written based on the resources set out in the Revenue and Capital Budgets and the implementation of actions that will arise from the Transformation Programme to achieve its stated objectives mentioned paragraph 5.2 above.
- 7.2 Draft portfolio plans contain the broad overall budget for the current year. It is not possible to include next years budget figures in the portfolio plans at this point in the financial planning process. The Medium Term Financial Strategy that will be considered by Council on 23rd February 2012 will identify the overall financial position up to 2014/15.

8 Equality Impact Assessment Implications/Outcomes

- 8.1 Planned Equality Impact Assessments have been included in the draft portfolio development plans and the actions arising from the Transformation Board will be assessed where appropriate.

9 Impact on the Organisation

- 9.1 The Portfolio Development Plans which are agreed will form the core of the Council Plan, which sets out the how the priorities of the Council will be delivered in 2012/13. It is intended that a draft Council Plan 2012/13 currently being developed and drafted will form the key strategic umbrella plan for the Council. The Council Plan will be submitted to Council for approval on 23rd February 2012.

10 Community Safety Implications

- 10.1 Community Safety implications are addressed in the relevant Portfolio Development Plans.

11 Consultation

11.1 A website based online consultation on the budget is currently in progress and the results will be reported to the Executive at its meeting on 13th February 2012. All specific groups that the council normally consults with will be asked for their views through completion of the online questionnaire.

12 Options Considered

12.1 None in the context of this report

13 Background Papers

13.1 Non-exempt Transformation Programme papers and presentation.

13.2 Summary of consultation will be added when received.

Previous report(s): Business Planning 2011/12 - Portfolio Development Plans

Information Issued Under Sensitive Issue Procedure: ~~Y~~/N

Ward Members Notified: ~~Y~~/N Not Applicable

Appendices:

A. Portfolio Development Plans 2012/13.