

Item No. 6.1	Classification: Open	Date: April 8 2009	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Corporate Plan 2009-2011	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Deputy Chief Executive	

RECOMMENDATION

That Council Assembly:

1. Agree the recommendation of the Executive to adopt the Council's Corporate Plan for 2009-2011

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

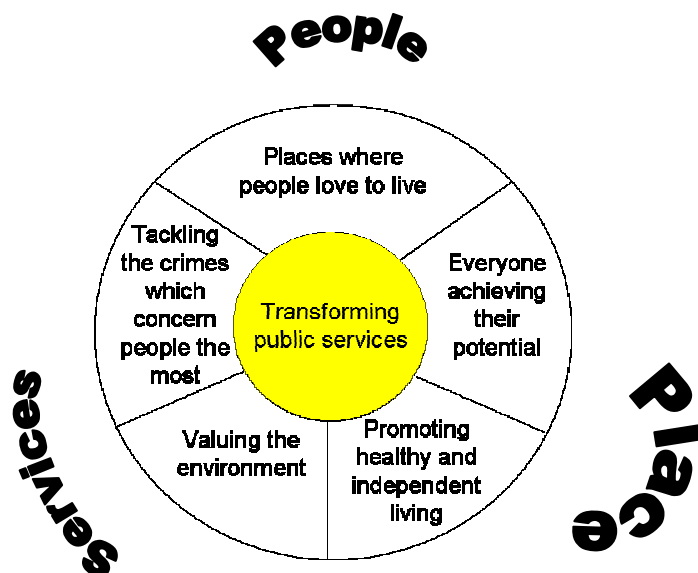
2. The purpose of the corporate planning framework is to articulate the medium term shared priorities of the council's work in support of the objectives of the local sustainable community strategy, Southwark 2016. These will sit alongside service specific priorities in departmental business plans, as well as project based and thematic targets within programme and partnership plans.
3. The performance indicators and project milestones described in the plan will form the basis of strategic performance reporting to the Executive and will enable the council to track progress on delivery of the priority themes.
4. As part of the policy framework, the Corporate Plan has to be agreed by Council Assembly. The performance elements of the plan are being finalised in line with the Local Area Agreement refresh and top tier indicators will be kept under review to ensure that the Corporate Plan remains relevant.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. The removal of the legislative requirement for local authorities to produce a best value performance plan has allowed for greater flexibility in developing a plan for Southwark Council.
6. Southwark 2016 was developed through extensive public and stakeholder consultation and expresses community ambition for improving life chances, making the borough a better place and delivering quality public services. The corporate plan describes the council's contribution to delivering these objectives including its leadership role.
7. The process for refreshing the corporate plan began in May 2008 following the agreement of a three year policy and resources strategy. The aim was to produce a plan that reflected the shared priorities of the council in a way that communicated with key stakeholders and supported service managers in business planning. A review was conducted to assess current key internal and external drivers which impact on the council's delivery of Southwark 2016. This included a review of

existing and developing plans and strategies and extensive consultation within the organisation.

8. This process led to an approach based on priority themes being developed, designed to support a flexible management structure which can drive delivery in a fast changing environment. The six themes around which the plan is structured derive from the priorities of people, place, services in Southwark 2016:



9. The plan contains a number of strategic measures that will demonstrate progress against shared priorities, outlines the performance and resource planning that will support delivery, and describes its relationships to partnership, programme and departmental delivery and specifically with the local area agreement.
10. The refresh of the corporate plan is aligned to the renewal of the council's performance management framework and of the medium term resource strategy which brings together the medium term financial strategy with IT, HR/workforce planning strategies and the updated asset management strategy.
11. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee were asked to comment on an early draft of the plan. They specifically asked for a clearer and more explicit link to be made between the priority themes in the plan and the Community Strategy objectives, the LAA priorities and the administration's six political commitments agreed in 2006. This feedback has been incorporated into the draft plan agreed for recommendation by the Executive on March 17th.

Community Impact Statement

12. The corporate plan recognises the diversity of the communities which the council serves. It covers both universal services and services targeted at more vulnerable people. The plan describes how the council will increase older people's independence, deliver personalised services for people with disabilities, support local businesses (including small and medium sized and black and minority ethnic businesses) to prosper, tackle crime and anti-social behavior and make places better for all through improved housing and public realm.

13. Although the corporate plan is not a direct service or function delivered to the community, it does influence the development of business plans across the council, which will then have an impact on the commissioning and delivery of council services. It will be the responsibility of individual services to assess the impact of their own functions and services on equality and diversity outcomes as they develop them to support the delivery of the Corporate Plan. Any subsequent change in service design, outcomes or access will need to be addressed and identified in future reports that follow on from the Corporate Plan decision.
14. An Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) has been carried out in parallel with the development of the plan. The plan was submitted to the Equality and Diversity Panel, which provides expertise and scrutiny in policy and service development, as part of this process. The panel recommended the importance of mainstreaming the Equality Impact Assessment process in business planning be highlighted within the plan itself and this recommendation has been incorporated. Stages one and two of the EQIA have now been completed and the final draft EQIA will be presented to the Leader for IDM in April 2009 in line with the decision making process for agreeing the plan.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

15. Strategic Director for Legal and Democratic Services

As described in paragraph 5, the requirement for local authorities to publish a best value performance plan has been removed by Part 7 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (the 2007 Act). It provides that sections 4 and 6 of the Local Government Act 1999 no longer applies to best value authorities in England. The 2007 Act removes the powers of the Secretary of State to specify performance indicators and standards for local authorities, the duty on authorities to meet such standards and to publish best value performance plans. There are no other legal implications from this report.

16. Finance Director

As stated above, the refresh of the corporate plan is aligned to the medium term resource strategy. The priorities described within the plan are reflected in the budget decisions for 2009/10 which were considered by Council on 28 February 2009.

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Southwark Council Corporate Plan: 2008-2011 – Draft

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Eleanor Kelly, Deputy Chief Executive	
Report Author	Robin Rogers, Project Manager, Corporate Strategy	
Version	Final	
Dated	23.03.09	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director for Legal and Democratic Services	Yes	Yes
Finance Director	Yes	Yes
Executive Member	Yes	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional/Community Council/Scrutiny Team	25.03.09	