

<b>Item No.</b> 5.4	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> February 23 2005	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		The Council's Corporate Plan	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		The Executive	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. Agree the council's Corporate Plan and draft performance targets (Appendix 1 – to follow).

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

2. Under the Local Government Act 1999 all local authorities are required to publish an annual Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) by the 30 June. Statutory Instrument (SI) No. 2002/305 - *The Local Government (Best Value) Performance Plans and Reviews Amendment and Specified Dates Order* reduced the previously prescriptive requirements, enabling councils to develop a document with an internal focus in line with internal planning cycles. The SI also enables councils to publish the plan before the final deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> June. The council is taking advantage of this and publishing early so that the plan can provide strategic direction for the council for 2005/06 and beyond. As part of the statutory requirement a full annex of audited performance indicator data will be published on the internet in June 2005.
3. This year, for the first time, the council is publishing its Corporate Plan at the start of the financial year, thus aligning it with the council's Policy and Resourcing Strategy.
4. The Corporate Plan sets out the council's vision, aims and priorities for the next three years, with the chapter entitled 'an improving council' explaining how capacity is built to deliver our priorities. The Corporate Plan also sets out for the first time information related to the budget for 2005/06 and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. The chapters on each of the strategic priorities set out what we will do to improve the quality of life in the borough. These chapters are structured around the high level local priorities in the Community Strategy.
5. As the Corporate Plan is the Best Value Performance Plan, it is important that we receive an "unqualified" opinion from auditors. Officers will continue to carry out necessary work to achieve this. In order to maximise consultation and capture the most up-to-date information for production of the Corporate Plan the appendix containing the Plan is not attached to this report and will be dispatched to members next week.
6. The Performance Indicators and project milestones contained within the Corporate Plan (which forms part of the Performance Management framework) will form the basis of Quarterly Performance Reports to the executive, enabling the council to track progress on delivery of the Corporate Plan. The Corporate Plan contains the draft targets for 2005/08, which form part of the council's

corporate basket.

7. All scrutiny sub-committees have had the opportunity to discuss this year's emerging Corporate Plan, and on the 12 January 2005 overview and scrutiny committee considered this in the round.
8. The executive agreed in principle to the council's Corporate Plan and the draft targets for 2005/08 on 8 February 2005.

#### **FINANCE COMMENTS**

9. As stated in paragraph three the aim has been to improve the alignment between the Corporate Plan and the budget setting process. The commitments within the plan are reflected in the current budget proposals for 2005/06, which are being considered elsewhere on this agenda. The agreement on this agenda of the Corporate Plan and Policy and Resourcing Strategy will ensure decisions are reflected consistently in both and that there is continued alignment between the two.

#### **LEGAL COMMENTS**

10. The legal background to the preparation of the Corporate Plan is set out in paragraph two of the report.

#### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Held At</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Statutory guidance, Corporate Plan 04/07, executive, overview & scrutiny committee and scrutiny sub committee papers	Town Hall, Peckham Road, London. SE5 8UB	Matthew Wallbridge Corporate Planning and Performance 020 7525 7379
Policy and Resourcing Strategy executive papers	Town Hall, Peckham Road, London. SE5 8UB	Stephen Gaskell Corporate Planning and Performance 020 7525 7293

## APPENDIX A

### Audit Trail

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Sarah Naylor, Assistant Chief Executive (Performance & Strategy)	
<b>Report Author</b>	Matthew Wallbridge, Corporate Planning and Performance	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	11/02/05	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Borough Solicitor & Secretary	Yes	Yes
Chief Finance Officer	Yes	Yes
Chief Officers	Yes	Yes
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Support Services</b>	11/02/05	