

Item No. 5.4	Classification: Open	Date: February 22 2006	Meeting Name Council Assembly
Report title:		The Council's Corporate Plan	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		N/A	
From:		The Executive	

RECOMMENDATION

1. Agree the Council's Corporate Plan and draft performance targets (appendix I).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The Corporate Plan forms part of the council's policy framework and is therefore a matter reserved for decision by council assembly.
3. Under the Local Government Act 1999 all local authorities are required to publish an annual Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) by the June 30. 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 Corporate Plan before the final deadline of June 30.
4. Due to the forthcoming local government elections the pre-election period commences on March 24 2006. This means that in order to produce the Corporate Plan in time for the start of the 2006/07 financial year it must be published by this date.
5. Separately on this agenda Council Assembly are receiving the Council's Policy and Resourcing Strategy, which effectively aligns the Council's Corporate Plan with the Medium Term Financial Strategy and budget for 2006/07.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. The Corporate Plan sets out the Council's future vision, aims and priorities, with the focus for this plan primarily being on the year ahead. The Corporate Plan is structured on existing strategic priorities in the current Community Strategy.
7. A new Community Strategy is planned to be published in the summer of 2006 and the Corporate Plan captures emerging issues from the recent consultation process. Once agreed the Corporate Plan will need to be updated to be fully aligned with the new Community Strategy for 2006-2016.
8. 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.

9. 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.
10. A copy of the draft Corporate Plan was circulated to all Overview and Scrutiny Committee members and all Scrutiny sub-committees chairs on January 26 2006.
11. The Executive agreed in principle to the Council's Corporate Plan and the draft targets for 2006-09 on January 31 2006.

Community Impact Statement

12. This report gives an indication of the projects the Council will undertake over the forthcoming year. It is recognised that in drawing up the Corporate Plan and the budget for 2006/07 the impact on the community of any potential change in service design, outcomes or access will need to be addressed and identified in future Executive reports that follow on from the Corporate Plan and budget decision.

Finance Implications

13. As stated in paragraph four the aim has been to improve the alignment between the Corporate Plan and the budget setting process. The projects and actions within the plan are reflected in the current budget options for 2006/07, which are being considered elsewhere on this agenda.

Legal Implications

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

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Statutory guidance, Corporate Plan 05/08, Executive paper for Corporate Plan and Policy and Resourcing Strategy Executive papers	Town Hall, Peckham Road, London. SE5 8UB	Matthew Wallbridge Corporate Planning and Performance 020 7525 7379

LIST OF APPENDICES

No.	Title
1.	The Council's Corporate Plan

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Sarah Naylor, Assistant Chief Executive	
Report Author	Matthew Wallbridge, Corporate Planning and Performance	
Version	Final	
Dated	10/02/06	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Borough Solicitor & Secretary	Yes	Yes
Chief Finance Officer	Yes	Yes
Chief Officers	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Support Services	10/02/06	