

DEVELOPING THE CORPORATE PLAN

Policy and Performance Advisory Committee - 23 March 2017

Report of	Chief Executive
Status	For Consideration
Key Decision	No

Portfolio Holder	Cllr. Peter Fleming
Contact Officer	Lee Banks, Ext. 7161

Recommendation to Policy & Performance Advisory Committee:

Members advise on any suggestions that they wish to see the Council take forward as it develops self-sufficiency plus in its Corporate Plan.

Reason for recommendation: To ensure the views of the Advisory Committee are considered in developing the Council's future priorities within its new Corporate Plan.

Introduction and Background

- 1 In 2010 Sevenoaks District Council approved its last Corporate Plan. As well as setting actions that the Council would take to make progress against the promises articulated by Members, it was the point at which the Council made a commitment to become financially self-sufficient.
- 2 In 2015 we achieved that aim, becoming the very first Council in the Country to fund all of its services without the need for direct funding from Government. This achievement has been recognised by many organisations, including the Council being announced as Council of the Year by the LGC Awards and the Overall Winner of The Guardian Public Sector Excellence Awards.
- 3 To provide a clear direction for the next stages in the Council's ongoing improvement it is recommended that a new Corporate Plan is developed, with a straightforward message that is easy to understand for staff, residents, local business and other stakeholders.

Self sufficiency plus

- 4 Having delivered a self-sufficient budget position and a balanced 10 year budget for the sixth year the Council has strong foundations to continue to deliver the high quality services that our customers want in to the long term.

- 5 The Property Investment Strategy has the ability to further enhance the Council's position by generating new sources of income over the budget planning period and beyond.
- 6 This potential allows the Council to explore what more it could do to enhance the level of service delivered by public sector organisations working across our District.
- 7 Through the West Kent Integration Board discussions with the County Council will enable a direct contribution to be made to shape aspects of spending on public health in the District. Other opportunities continue to be explore in areas such as community safety and highways.
- 8 The Council is already innovating with its disabled facilities grant service. Working directly to assist residents to return home from hospital more rapidly, helping to free up valuable bed space and improving the health of our residents.
- 9 At this meeting of the Advisory Committee Members are requested to explore further the idea of self sufficiency plus and bring forward other areas where they feel that the Council can contribute to improve the quality of services across our District.

Other Options Considered and/or Rejected

- 10 None.

Key Implications

Financial

- 11 Any ideas set out by Members for inclusion in the Corporate Plan will be assessed to determine their financial viability.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

- 12 Any ideas set out by Members for inclusion in the Corporate Plan will be reviewed to ensure that there are no legal reasons why the Council would be unable to take them forward. Each area will be assessed to ensure the Council is well informed about the level of risk any idea could create.

Equality Assessment

- 13 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Conclusions

- 14 Developing a new Corporate Plan provides the Council an opportunity to explore how its unique position of being financially self-sufficient can deliver

increased benefits to the residents and businesses of the District. Members are asked to contribute their own ideas through the Advisory Committee meeting.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

Corporate Plan

http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/113707/Corporate-Plan.pdf

**Dr Pav Ramewal
Chief Executive**