

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
17 MARCH 2015

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

AGENDA ITEM No.

11

TITLE OF REPORT: KEY PROJECTS FOR 2015/16

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF FINANCE, PERFORMANCE & ASSET MANAGEMENT

PORTFOLIO HOLDER COUNCILLOR JULIAN CUNINGHAM

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To present to the Committee the programme management arrangements and key projects to be delivered to support the Priorities for the District 2015/16.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 For the Committee to note the key projects that will be the key focus for the Council in 2015/16.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Corporate Business Planning Timetable for 2015/16 requires details of the key projects to be considered by this Committee. In addition, this Committee has a role in monitoring the delivery of these projects.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 There are no alternative options for this report.

5. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

- 5.1 Consultation has been undertaken by the relevant Lead Officer and Portfolio Holder for these key projects. In addition, a number of the projects are included within the Capital programme for 2015/16 that was considered by Full Council on 12 February 2015.

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 This Committee reviewed the Corporate Business Planning Timetable in June 2014. The final item on this Timetable is for this Committee to “establish programme management arrangements and reporting times for the new plan”. The Timetable was recommended for approval to Cabinet.
- 7.2 This report refers to the specific projects that support the delivery of the Council’s agreed Priorities.

8. KEY PROJECTS 2015/16

- 8.1 The key projects for 2015/16 are included in Appendix A. The majority of these projects are a continuation of those identified in the Priorities for the District 2014/15, generally larger capital schemes which span financial years. There are some additional projects that have been identified and agreed through the Capital programme for 2015/16.
- 8.2 Appendix A includes the current plans for reporting progress. In addition to these indicative reporting details, and where no specific mention is made, updates will be provided to Portfolio Holders and may be provided, where relevant, through the Members Information Service. A summary update on all the projects will be included in the half- yearly and annual report to this Committee. Progress against some will be monitored through the Capital monitoring reports to the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and to Cabinet.
- 8.3 Detailed milestones to deliver the projects will be included in Service Plans and agreed with individuals through the appraisal process. Key milestones will be recorded on Covalent and progress against the delivery of these is monitored through the Senior Management Team.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 No legal implications arise from this report. There is a legal requirement for Councils operating Executive arrangements to appoint an overview and scrutiny committee with remit to review decisions and other actions taken.¹
- 9.2 This Overview and Scrutiny Committee’s Terms of Reference include reviewing performance against the Council’s agreed priorities and to scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or service areas². This report gives the Committee an opportunity to comment on the projects that have been identified for delivery against the Council’s objectives.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no direct financial implications from this report. A number of these projects are included within the Council’s agreed Capital and Revenue programme for 2015/16.

¹ S9F Local Government Act 2000

² 6.2.7 (s) Constitution 09.04.14

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The Lead Officer for each project is responsible for identifying any risks to the successful delivery of the project.
- 11.2 Some of these major projects have been identified as Top Risks for the Council and these are monitored quarterly by the Finance Audit & Risk Committee. These include:
- Local Plan
 - Churchgate and the Surrounding area
 - North Herts Museum and Community Facility
 - Office Accommodation
 - Asset Management
 - Careline
 - Waste and Street Cleansing Contract Renewal

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 The Equality Act 2010 came into force on the 1st October 2010, a major piece of legislation. The Act also created a new Public Sector Equality Duty, which came into force on the 5th April 2011. There is a General duty, described in 12.2, that public bodies must meet, underpinned by more specific duties which are designed to help meet them.
- 12.2 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of its functions, give **due regard** to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.3 By considering the key projects for 2015/16, this provides a means to monitor whether the council are meeting the stated outcomes of the district priorities, its targets or delivering accessible and appropriate services to the community to meet different people's needs. This assists the Council to fulfil a number of its obligations arising from the Public Sector Equality Duty.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 As the recommendations made in this report do not constitute a public service contract, the measurement of 'social value' as required by the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 need not be applied, although equalities implications and opportunities are identified in the relevant section at paragraphs 12.
- 13.2 Where the key projects referred to in this report relate to the award of a public service contract, 'social value' will be captured and reported in accordance with the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.

14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 There are no additional human resource implications arising from this monitoring report. The resources needed to deliver projects should be considered through the Corporate Business Planning process.

15. APPENDICES

- 15.1 Appendix A – Key Projects for 2015/16

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17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 17.1 None