

Report To: County Council

Date of Meeting: 9 October 2012

Lead Member / Officer: Cllr Barbara Smith, Lead Member for Modernisation and Performance / Alan Smith, Head of Business Planning and Performance

Report Author: Tony Ward, Corporate Improvement Team Manager

Title: Denbighshire County Council's Corporate Plan 2012-17

1. What is the report about?

This report presents the council's draft Corporate Plan 2012-17.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

A decision is required to approve the final draft version of the Corporate Plan 2012-17, attached at Appendix I to this report.

3. What are the Recommendations?

It is recommended that, subject to any agreed changes, Members approve the final draft of the Corporate Plan 2012-17 to enable the document to be translated and published.

4. Report details.

The Corporate Plan 2012-17 is intended as a high level strategic document to guide the direction of the council for the next 5 years. It has therefore been developed with that in mind and does not contain details of everything the council will do during the next 5 years to support the corporate priorities. Furthermore, because the Corporate Plan is intended to be an accessible document, we have not included details of all the indicators and performance measures we will use to evaluate our success. We will therefore produce a separate document which will define the tools we will use to monitor the Plan. We will also publish a Corporate Plan Delivery Document every year to provide specific details of what we expect to deliver in that particular financial year to support our priorities.

The Corporate Improvement Team is currently working with services to follow-up on the other priorities identified by individual Members during the Corporate Plan event on 31st July. A document demonstrating how services are currently responding to those priorities will be circulated to Members in due course.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

Approval of the Corporate Plan 2012-17 will establish the priorities for the council for the period of this council term.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

The Corporate Plan 2012-17 includes a 5-year financial strategy which outlines the anticipated capital investment required to deliver the priorities. This strategy was developed following a Members workshop on 11th September led by the Head of Finance and Assets.

7. What consultations have been carried out and has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken?

A draft set of corporate priorities was published for public consultation during August 2012. The consultation period ended on 11th September, and all the comments received are included at Appendix II to this report. However, Town and Community Councils were given until October 5th to respond, due to the fact that they did not meet during August. Therefore a complete list of feedback from the consultation, including those from Town and Community Councils, will be circulated at the Council meeting on 9th October.

Members have been consulted in a number of ways during the development of the Corporate Plan since the draft set of corporate priorities were agreed by Members on 31st July:

- Quality Control Group, 22nd August (volunteers from event on 31st July session).
- Cabinet Briefing, 10th September.
- Informal Council Session: Financing the Corporate Plan, on 11th September.
- Performance Scrutiny Committee, on 20th September 2012.

The Corporate Improvement Team has, in consultation with services, undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment on the draft Corporate Plan 2012-17. This assessment provides context to the Corporate Plan and helps Members to understand the potential impact of the plan on people who share protected characteristics. The conclusions from this assessment are included at Appendix III to this report.

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The plan contains high level spending plans covering the next five years and will set the context for the Medium Term Financial Plan that will be presented to members. The investment outlined is ambitious but necessary if the Council is to continue to improve key services. The Council faces a difficult few years with a challenging financial environment and should the need arise, plans are flexible enough to be changed if the financial situation changes.

9. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

The Corporate Risk Register is currently being reviewed, and this will include any risks associated with delivering the new Corporate Plan, once this has been agreed. The revised Risk Register will be presented to the Performance Scrutiny Committee on 29th November 2012.

10. Power to make the Decision

The Corporate Plan is a key element of the Wales Programme for Improvement (2010), which is underpinned by the statutory requirements of the Local Government Act 1999 and Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.