
Meeting: Executive
Date: 15 May 2012
Subject: Medium Term Plan (MTP)
Report of: Cllr James Jamieson, Leader and Cllr Maurice Jones, Deputy Leader and Executive Member, Corporate Resources
Summary: The report proposes finalisation of the MTP prior to recommending its adoption by Council on 21 June 2012. It also includes comments resulting from consultation for consideration by the Executive.

Advising Officer: Richard Carr, Chief Executive
Contact Officer: Gillian Dent, Programme Manager ext 74656
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Executive
Key Decision No
**Reason for urgency/
exemption from call-in
(if appropriate)** N/A

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The MTP 2012-2016 sets out the councils priorities for the next 4 years. If adopted by Council in June, it will replace the existing priorities, the proposed MTP priorities are:

- Enhancing Central Bedfordshire – creating jobs, managing growth, protecting our countryside and enabling businesses to grow.
- Improved educational attainment.
- Promote health and wellbeing and protecting the vulnerable.
- Better infrastructure – improved roads, broadband reach and transport.
- Great universal services – bins, leisure and libraries.
- Value for money – freezing council tax.

Financial:

1. Once the MTP is adopted, the future Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) will become the financial expression of what the Council aspires to achieve through the priorities and targets set out in the MTP.

Legal:

2. There are no legal implications in adopting the MTP.

Risk Management:

3. If the MTP is adopted by Council in June 2012, the Strategic Risk Register will be reviewed to ensure it takes account of the Plan.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

4. Delivering the Plan may have staffing implications and appropriate consultation will take place with the trade unions and affected staff in accordance with the Council's Managing Change policy.

Equalities/Human Rights:

5. Public authorities have a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

As part of the development of the strategies which underpin the Medium Term Plan, Equality Impact Assessments have been undertaken and a variety of specific objectives designed to promote equality have been approved and recently published as the Council's Equality objectives.

Public Health:

6. There are a significant number of priorities and targets that will have an impact and will make a difference to the wider determinants of health.

Community Safety:

7. There are some targets within the MTP which are relevant to Community Safety. The targets under the priority of Enhancing Central Bedfordshire – creating jobs, managing growth, protecting our countryside and enabling businesses to grow are:
 - To reduce the levels of crime e.g. burglary, robbery, vehicle crime and theft from 3312 in 2010/11 by 10% to 2980 by 2016.
 - To decrease the levels of anti social behaviour from the 2011/12 recorded incident figures by 10%.

These will be delivered by working with the new Police and Crime Commissioner and Bedfordshire Police and through our Community Safety Partnership.

Sustainability:

8. There are a number of targets where sustainability is relevant e.g:
Enhancing Central Bedfordshire - creating jobs, managing growth, protecting our countryside and enabling businesses to grow.
The Council's emerging Development Strategy will address issues of sustainability.

Procurement:

9. The Council's procurement processes will be relevant for achieving the priority – Value for Money.

We are improving our procurement to ensure that all our requirements for contracted goods, services and works are exposed to fair competition and are fully and fairly evaluated using a balanced approach to price and quality which will demonstrate value for money.

During the life of a contract we will monitor performance regularly and check that the agreement is being upheld and that it meets the requirements of the service user.

Overview and Scrutiny:

10. Comments have been received from each of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees, a full list is appended for consideration (Appendix A). The comments have been incorporated into the final document and shown as tracked changes, for the Executive to consider before making a recommendation for Council to adopt the MTP.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Executive is asked to:

- 1 recommend to Council to adopt the Medium Term Plan – Delivering Your Priorities at Appendix B, in the light of the outcome of the consultation process; and**
- 2. agree to launch the MTP to partners, staff and residents following adoption by Council.**

Executive Summary

11. Since the election of a new Administration in 2011, a review of the Council's existing priorities has been undertaken. As a result it was agreed to develop a Medium Term Plan (MTP) for the Council for the next four years setting out priorities which matter most to residents. Consultation has taken place on the priorities with key partners and each of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs).

The consultation responses are summarised in Appendix A.

The proposed changes as a result of this process have been included as tracked changes, for consideration by the Executive. (Appendix B).

Once agreed the MTP will be launched to the public, staff and partners in the most appropriate format.

The Medium Term Plan – Delivering your Priorities

12. The Council agreed, in late 2011, to develop a Medium Term Plan to articulate its priorities from 2012-2016 with targets and plans for delivery. The MTP was developed to reflect the needs and views of residents.
13. Consultation has been undertaken with the OSCs and with key partners from Central Bedfordshire Together and the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board. Comments ranged from changes to text and clarifications to changes which might impact on the delivery of a priority.

Conclusion

14. The revised MTP can now be recommended for adoption by Council.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Report and Recommendations from OSCs.

Appendix B – Delivering your Priorities – Our Plan for Central Bedfordshire 2012-2016.