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## **Corporate Plan Review**

To: **Overview and Scrutiny Panel – 18 August 2015**

Main Portfolio Area: **Leader and all Portfolios**

By: **Madeline Homer, Chief Executive**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **Whole District**

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**Summary:** The Corporate Plan is a policy framework document and is subject to the Council's Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules which provides the Overview and Scrutiny Panel with an opportunity to comment on the draft proposals before they are finalised by Cabinet and submitted to Council.

This report provides the Overview and Scrutiny Panel with the details of the proposed new Corporate Plan 2015-2019 and requests feedback.

### **For Information**

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#### **1.0 Introduction and Background**

1.1 The council's current Corporate Plan was published in 2012 and covers the period of 2012 – March 2016.

1.2 Since the publication of the, 2012-16 Corporate Plan, the council has faced significant challenges, coupled with the change of Political Administration and future funding pressures, it is considered timely to re-set the council's corporate priorities for the next four years.

1.3 The proposal to re-set the corporate priorities also supports, one of the key messages arising from the Local Government Association Peer Review in 2014.

“Clarify what you want to achieve and how you are going to do it and then put the appropriate resources in place – a rationalised set of priorities will drive the Medium Term Financial Plan.”

#### **2.0 The Current Situation**

2.1 Through the proposed new priorities, the council will: continue to shape the future of the district by maximising the use of the current powers it holds; ensuring accountability to the electorate it serves; innovating where new opportunities present themselves; and collaborating with partners to deliver the best possible services within the funds available to the council.

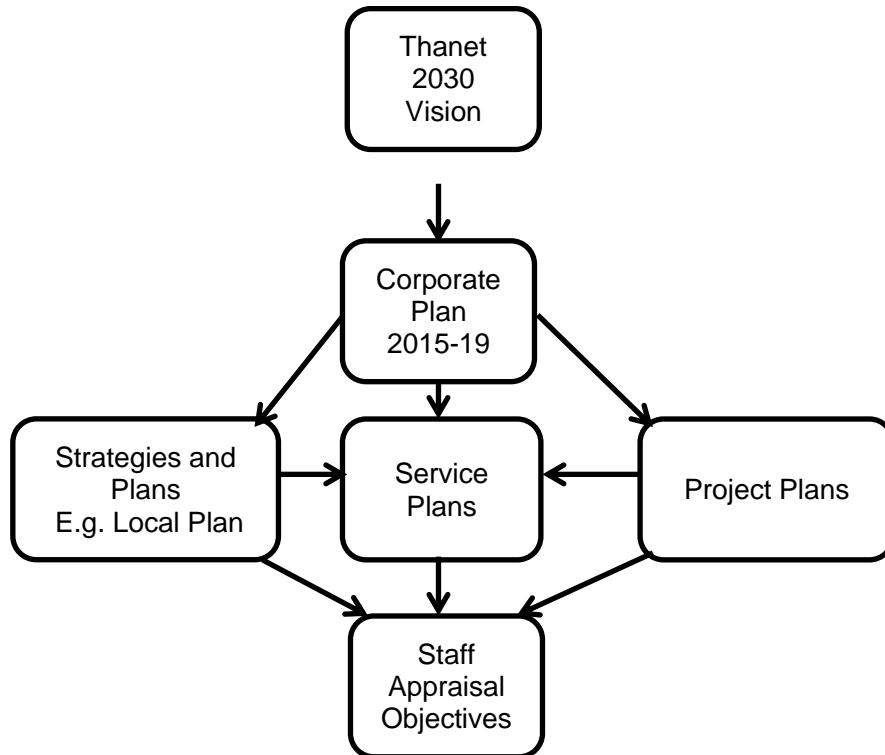
2.2 The proposed corporate values identify the way the council will work in order to deliver its priorities.

- 2.3 The council is responsible for a wide range of statutory and discretionary services and through the proposed new priorities it will take an outcome focussed approach to find the right way to deliver its services.
- 2.4 The largest challenge the council faces over the next four years is to deliver further improvements to its services with reduced funding and resources. This will require the council to work with its partners and residents to minimise the impact of the challenge ahead and manage the expectations on the council within its limited resources.
- 2.5 The proposed new priorities will underpin the 2030 Vision for the district (which can be found on the council website <http://thanet.gov.uk/about-us/thanet-vision-2030/>) and will be delivered through the annual focused operational service plans. The council's performance and governance framework will ensure that the council has the ability to monitor and manage the achievement of the outcomes from the proposed new priorities, through aligned performance measures and specific improvement actions.
- 2.6 The proposed new corporate priorities and values are attached to this report as Annex 1.

### **3.0 Linking the corporate priorities to Service Plans and Projects**

- 3.1 The corporate priorities have been designed as a strategic document which aims to impact on the long-term future of Thanet. The strategic goals set out within the document, are supported by more detailed plans and strategies which set out service specific projects, actions and targets.
- 3.2 Diagram 1 below shows how these plans and strategies fit together. The diagram has six elements:
- a) The 2030 Vision for Thanet which sets out the broad aims for the district.
  - b) The Corporate Plan which is the council's medium term planning document and it identifies the key priorities and aims that the council will focus on over a four year period.
  - c) Service Plans are the operational plans of the different departments within the council; they include details on specific projects, actions and targets.
  - d) There are a number of other strategies and plans tackling specific issues which cross cut across the council's different departments. These are tied closely to service plans to ensure that individual departments keep on track with their contribution to the Corporate Plan.
  - e) Projects are planned, monitored and reviewed in accordance with the council's project management framework.
  - f) Staff appraisal objectives are linked to the departmental targets and are monitored through the council's staff appraisal process.

Diagram 1



3.3 As stated in Priority 2 of the Draft Corporate Plan 2015-19, the achievement of the council's long-term aims will require the council to work in partnership with other organisations from the public, private and voluntary sectors. These organisations will also have strategies and plans which will contribute to the delivery of the priorities set out in the Draft Corporate Plan.

#### 4.0 Options

4.1 This report is presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel as part of the consultation process. The panel is asked to provide feedback on the draft Corporate Plan (Annex 1) at this meeting.

4.2 Recommend the report to Cabinet for onward submission to Full Council.

#### 5.0 Proposed Next Steps

5.1 The presentation of this report to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel is the final stage in the consultation process. Following this, the report will be provided to Cabinet on the 10 September 2015 for recommendation to Council on the 15 October 2015.

5.2 If approved by Council the priorities will be translated directly into the Operational Service Plans for 2016-17. This will enable each priority to be monitored through the Council's Performance Management Process.

#### 6.0 Corporate Implications

##### 6.1 Financial and VAT

6.1.1 The detailed objectives within all three proposed new priorities will need to be deliverable in line with the Council's budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy.

## 6.2 Legal

- 5.2.1 The Constitution requires that the Council's Plan be adopted by Full Council in accordance with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules.

## 6.3 Corporate

- 6.3.1 The council is responsible for a wide range of statutory and discretionary services and through the proposed new priorities it will take an outcome focussed approach to find the right way to deliver its services.

## 6.4 Equity and Equalities

- 6.4.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken and there is no reason to state at this time that the content of the proposed new Corporate Priorities will negatively impact on any groups with protected characteristics. The priorities focus on improving the quality of life in Thanet for all. Opportunities to further the aims of the Duty will be investigated during equality impact analysis of individual projects, plans and strategies arising from the priorities.

## 7.0 Recommendation(s)

- 7.1 Express the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel and recommend the report to Cabinet for onward submission to Full Council.

## 8.0 Decision Making Process

- 8.1 This is a policy framework document to go to Full Council and is subject to the Council's Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules which provides the Overview and Scrutiny Panel with an opportunity to comment on the draft proposals before they are finalised by Cabinet and submitted to Council.

- 8.2 Subject to approval of Cabinet, the report and the proposed Corporate Plan 2015 – 2019 will be recommended to Full Council.

Future Meeting	Date
Cabinet	10 September 2015
Full Council	15 October 2015

Contact Officer:	Nicola Walker - Interim Head of Finance
Reporting to:	Tim Willis – Director of Corporate Resources

### Annex List

Annex 1	Proposed new Corporate Priorities 2015-2019
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### Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
Equalities Impact Assessment	Email: <a href="mailto:Carol.cook@thanet.gov.uk">Carol.cook@thanet.gov.uk</a>
Thanet Vision 2030	<a href="http://thanet.gov.uk/about-us/thanet-vision-2030/">http://thanet.gov.uk/about-us/thanet-vision-2030/</a>

## Corporate Consultation Undertaken

Finance	Nicola Walker, Interim Head of Finance
Legal	Tim Howes, Interim Head of Legal and Democratic Services & Monitoring Officer