



Subject:	Corporate Plan 2024-28
Date:	18th August, 2023
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officers:	Kevin Heaney, Head of Inclusive Growth and Anti-poverty Geoff Dickson, Strategic Planning and Policy Manager Ryan Berry, Policy and Performance Analyst

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To outline to the Committee the proposed approach and key steps to develop the new corporate plan 2024-28 and accompanying Committee and Departmental Plans.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve the proposed approach and timeline for the development of a new corporate plan (2024-28) and accompanying Committee and Departmental Plans 2024-25.
3.0	Key Issues
	<u>Corporate Planning Framework</u>

3.1	<p>The Corporate Plan is a key governance document, cited in the Council's constitution as the means by which the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee sets the strategic direction of the Council.</p>
3.2	<p>It sets out the strategic aims which the Council seeks to achieve for the City, the priority actions which will help make it happen and the key performance information that will help the Council and our stakeholders determine the impact of our activity. The priorities set out within the corporate plan are used as the basis for the rate setting process to ensure our financial, physical and human resources are aligned with the achievement of the ambitions and commitments in the plan.</p>
	<p><u>Corporate Planning and Committee Planning Cycle</u></p>
3.3	<p>The four-year corporate planning cycle is aligned with the electoral cycle and 4-year council terms. The timeline seeks to have a new corporate plan developed and agreed by the April following the local government elections. This provides newly elected Members to work with officers over a nine-month (approx.) period to co-design the corporate plan and associated priorities for the next four years. This approach provides a year overlap of the corporate plan into the next Council term to provide stability and focus whilst the new plan is being developed.</p>
3.4	<p>A new corporate plan is therefore required for April 2024 and will be supported by the following key documents which will be developed alongside the plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="284 1193 1519 1373">i. Annual Corporate Delivery Plan. More detailed contents on what will be delivered on an annual basis against each priority, alongside key performance targets. Within the four-year corporate planning cycle, this provides an opportunity to refresh the priorities aligned to the annual estimating process.<li data-bbox="284 1395 1519 1619">ii. Annual Committee Plans. These are developed for the People and Communities, City Growth and Regeneration and Planning Committees and will consist of the priorities in the corporate plan that each Committee is responsible for, alongside additional priorities that can be agreed by the Committee. The Committee plans help provide focus for the Committee and supporting Chief Officers on core delivery priorities.<li data-bbox="284 1641 1519 1776">iii. Annual Departmental Plans. The departmental plan outlines the key corporate priorities which will be led by specific departments alongside other departmental and service priorities agreed. These plans also help inform the budget estimates and rate setting processes.<li data-bbox="284 1798 1519 1933">iv. Annual rate setting process. The annual rate setting process ensures the delivery of a balanced budget and focuses the allocation of resources so that, over time, priority areas are financially supported.

3.5	<p>v. Medium-Term Financial Strategy. This provides the financial framework to demonstrate that the corporate, committee and departmental plans are supported by sustainable and affordable financial planning. Forecasting the financial position over a longer time frame supports planning for future service provision.</p> <p><u>Key Next Steps</u></p> <p>In order to agree the draft plans in time for April 2024, the following timeline is recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Party Group Leaders, Committee Chair and Chief Officers workshop (late September) - CMT will outline its priorities for the 2024-28 corporate plan and Members will be asked to bring their priorities for the next four years. The outcome of this workshop will form the basis of the initial draft corporate plan and help inform the estimating process. ii. Committee Planning Workshops (early October). This will enable each Committee to discuss with senior officers the priorities for the Committee over the next four years (based on initial discussion between CMT, PGLS and Chairs) and discuss any additional priorities under the remit of the Committee. iii. Draft corporate plan, committee plans and departmental plans discussed at CMT – 8th November. iv. All Member workshop – November 2023 v. SP and R Committee in 24th Nov and 15th Dec – rate setting and medium-term strategy update reports (district rate must be struck by 15th Feb each year) vi. Draft Corporate Plan and Committee Plans to Committee – January/ February 2024. vii. Eight-week public consultation opens on draft corporate plan – February/ March. viii. Final four year corporate and Committee plans agreed April – May 2024.
3.6	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The recommended corporate planning /committee planning approach can be delivered within existing resources. The content of the planning documents will be considered as a key part of the rate setting process.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>Corporate policies will be followed, and appropriate screening and mitigating actions delivered where necessary.</p>
4.0	<p>Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None</p>