

	<p>Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee</p> <p>16 January 2018</p>
Title	Draft Corporate Plan 2018/19 addendum
Report of	Chairman of the Committee, Councillor Reuben Thompstone
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	Appendix A: Draft Corporate Plan 2018/19 addendum
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Summary

In March 2015, a five year Commissioning Plan was approved up to 2020, which set out the *key activities* and *targets* for the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee across its core areas of responsibility. All Theme Committees agreed a Commissioning Plan. Each year the Commissioning Plans are refreshed and an addendum published. This year the Commissioning Plans have been incorporated as part of the Corporate Plan 2018/19 addendum, as appendices.

This report sets out the draft Corporate Plan 2018/19 addendum, with the appendix for Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee. The Corporate Plan 2018/19 addendum, with all Theme Committee appendices, will be considered by Policy and Resources Committee on 13 February 2018 before being ratified by Council on 6 March 2018

Officers Recommendations

That the Committee review the draft Corporate Plan 2018/19 addendum, including the *key activities* and *targets* for the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, and recommend any changes prior to consideration of the Corporate Plan 2018/19 addendum by Policy and Resources Committee on 13 February 2017.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Corporate Plan was agreed by Council on 14 April 2015. It set the direction for the council up to 2020, including the *corporate priorities* and *targets* against which progress is measured. Each year the *corporate priorities* and *targets* are reviewed to ensure they remain focused on the things that matter most to the council; and these are published in an addendum to the Corporate Plan. Alongside this, each Theme Committee agreed a five year Commissioning Plan up to 2020, which set out the *key activities* and *targets* for its core areas of responsibility. These are also refreshed annually.
- 1.2 This year the Corporate Plan and Commissioning Plans have been streamlined into one document – the **Corporate Plan 2018/19 addendum (see Appendix A)**. The main body of the document has been slimmed down to focus on the council's *purpose, corporate priorities, staff values* and *financial position*. The *key activities* and *targets* for each Theme Committee (replacing the Commissioning Plans) have been set out in separate appendices (see Appendix C for the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee).

Corporate priorities

- 1.3 The *corporate priorities* for 2018/19 have been set out by Theme Committee, and include two *corporate priorities* that fall under the remit of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee. These are:
- **Children's Services Improvement Plan:** we are working with our improvement partners (Essex County Council) to develop a robust Improvement Action Plan. Improving outcomes for vulnerable children is a priority across the council and our partners, and we will be working collectively to drive the improvements that we want. Effective leadership and partnership is vital to delivering good and outstanding services that keep children and young people safe and give them the right help, at the right time in their lives. Children in Barnet deserve the best possible services from us and we are committed to doing whatever we can to deliver great outcomes for children and young people across the borough and ensure that they have the best start in life.
 - **Delivering the family-friendly Barnet vision:** our key priority is to put children and families at the heart of everything we do and focus on building resilient families and children through our resilience-based practice model. In

education we want great schools and early years provision for our children. We have started a three-year partnership with UNICEF and will utilise tools, expertise and resources to be recognised as a Children Friendly Community and support all children to be happy, safe, and resilient. We will further develop our work to involve young people in decision making through working with partners across the borough to make Barnet the most family friendly borough in London by 2020. As part of the 'resilient families: resilient children' vision, we have strengthened our approach to children with special education needs and disability and commissioned a range of services which aim to foster resilience and independence within young people with complex needs.

Key activities

1.4 In addition to the two *corporate priorities* above, the *key activities* have been reviewed, with the proposal that the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee focus on the following two *key activities* in 2018/19:

- **Tackling gang activity:** we will continue our partnership with MAC-UK to help practitioners deliver psychologically informed services to children and young people living in complex circumstances, and to recruit young people to engage in peer mentoring alongside our practitioners. We will extend learning from the newly formed REACH team who work children and young people who are involved in or at risk of exploitation and violence. This will enable practitioners across the children's workforce to benefit from this specific knowledge and expertise. We are further developing partnered approaches with voluntary sector providers to deliver targeted prevention activity for boys and girls in the community and in school. The REACH team are currently being externally evaluated to assess the impact of the multi-agency approach.
- **Ensuring the attainment and progress of children in Barnet schools remains in the top 10% nationally:** working with Cambridge Education we will continue to drive standards in our schools. School Improvement Partnerships are operating across the borough, enabling schools to challenge and support each other, sharing best practice to ensure all schools are good or outstanding. We will continue to focus on improving services that support schools and families to meet the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities and in particular, improving and developing communication and partnership working with parents/carers and young people building their resilience. We will continue to work closely with schools and partners to identify and provide early support for children, young people and their families to successfully transition from early years through into adulthood. Through effective collaboration between schools, children's social care and health we will promote safeguarding of children and young people.

Targets

1.5 The suite of indicators for the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee has been reviewed in line with the *corporate priorities* and *key*

activities for 2018/19 and condensed to ensure they remain focused on these. The proposed targets for 2018/19 (and any revisions to targets for 2019/20) have been presented in 'red' text (in Appendix C).

Next steps

- 1.6 Members are invited to review the *key activities* and *targets* in Appendix C and make any recommendations for changes prior to the **Corporate Plan 2018/19 addendum** being considered by the Policy and Resources Committee on 13 February 2018.
- 1.7 The Corporate Plan will continue to be monitored by Performance and Contract Management Committee on a quarterly basis and the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee will receive a progress report at least annually on the *key activities* and *targets*.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 A key element of effective strategic and financial management is for the council to have comprehensive business plans in place that ensure there is a clear strategy for addressing future challenges, particularly in the context of continuing budget and demand pressures (resulting from demographic and legislative changes), delivering local priorities and allocating resources effectively.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 There is no statutory duty to have a Corporate Plan but it is considered to be good practice to have a comprehensive business plan in place that ensures the council's vision for the future is clearly set out and transparent.

4 POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The refreshed Corporate Plan 2018/19 addendum will be presented to the Policy and Resources Committee on 13 February 2018. Revisions to this will be communicated internally and with key stakeholders.

5 IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 This report invites Members to review the Corporate Plan 2018/19 addendum, including the relevant appendix setting out the *key activities* and *targets* for the Committee.

5.2 Resources (Finance and Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 In addition to continuing budget reductions, demographic change and the resulting pressure on services pose a significant challenge to the council. The

organisation is facing significant budget reductions at the same time as the population is increasing, particularly in the young and very old population groups.

- 5.2.2 The Corporate Plan 2018/19 addendum has been informed by the Medium Term Financial Strategy, which sets out the need to make savings of £40.795million. £17.695million of the budget gap is due to be met from reserves by 2019/20; and there are savings proposals to mitigate £28.556million. After contributing approximately £12.133million to infrastructure works, there is a remaining gap of £6.677million. The savings proposals for the two years are:

2018/19	2019/20	Total
£11.287m	£17.269m	£28.556m

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 All proposals emerging from the business planning process must be considered in terms of the council's legal powers and obligations, including its overarching statutory duties such as the Public Sector Equality Duty.
- 5.4.2 This is in line with the Council's Constitution (Article 7) which sets out the terms of reference of the Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee. The Committee has responsibility for all matters relating to children, schools, education and libraries.

5.5 Risk Management

- 5.5.1 The council has an established approach to risk management, which is set out in the Risk Management Framework. All risks are reviewed on a quarterly basis (as a minimum) and the corporate risk register (comprising strategic and high level service/joint risks) is reported to Performance and Contract Management Committee as part of the Performance Monitoring Report.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.6.1 The Equality Act 2010 requires organisations exercising public functions to demonstrate that due regard has been paid to equalities in:
- Elimination of unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010.

- Advancement of equality of opportunity between people from different groups.
- Fostering of good relations between people from different groups.

5.6.2 The Equality Act 2010 identifies the following protected characteristics: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex and sexual orientation.

5.6.3 In order to assist in meeting the duty the council will:

- Try to understand the diversity of our customers to improve our services.
- Consider the impact of our decisions on different groups to ensure they are fair.
- Mainstream equalities into business and financial planning and integrating equalities into everything we do.
- Learn more about Barnet's diverse communities by engaging with them.

This is also what we expect of our partners.

5.6.4 This is set out in the council's Equalities Policy together with our strategic Equalities Objective - as set out in the Corporate Plan - that citizens will be treated equally with understanding and respect; have equal opportunities and receive quality services provided to best value principles.

5.7 Corporate Parenting

5.7.1 The Children and Social Work Act 2017 states that when local authorities become corporate parents, they should have regard to specific principles when exercising functions in relation to children in care and young people, to:

- Act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those children and young people
- Encourage them to express their views, wishes and feelings, and take them into account, while promoting high aspirations and trying to secure the best outcomes for them
- Make sure they have access to services
- Make sure that they are safe, with stable home lives, relationships and education or work
- Prepare them for adulthood and independent living.

5.7.2 To ensure that Barnet acts as a good corporate parent to children in care and care leavers, we will:

- Commit to supporting children and young people to achieve their best in childhood, adolescence and adulthood as outlined in the Corporate Parenting Pledge for children in care and care leavers (May 2016)
- Both elected members and senior officers understand their duties and responsibilities to children and care and care leavers
- Ensure elected members, senior officers and partners can monitor and challenge the performance of the council and its partner agencies regarding outcomes for children in care and care leavers through the appropriate channels such as the Corporate Parenting Advisory Panel and

Corporate Parenting Officers' Group.

5.8 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.8.1 The Corporate Plan 2015-2020 and subsequent addendums have been informed by extensive consultation through the budget and business planning process, including reports to Council in March each year.
- 5.8.2 The consultation, which has been undertaken in the autumn of each year, has consulted on a combined package of the budget and Corporate Plan. In particular it has aimed to:
- Create a stronger link between strategy, priorities and resources
 - Place a stronger emphasis on commissioning as a driver of the business planning process
 - Focus on how the council will use its resources to achieve its Corporate Plan.

5.9 Insight

Not applicable.

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 The Corporate Plan 2015-2020, along with the addendums for 2016/17 and 2017/18 are available at <https://barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/council-and-democracy/policy-and-performance/corporate-plan-and-performance.html>