



**REPORT OF:** CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
**TO:** COUNCIL FORUM  
**ON:** 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2012

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**SUBJECT: BUDGET STRATEGY 2013/15 – PROPOSED TIMETABLE AND REVISED CORPORATE PLAN PROCESS**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

This report outlines proposals and a timetable for developing the corporate plan for 2012-2015 and the budget strategy for 2013-2015.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Council Forum is recommended to agree to the following:

1. Bringing forward the timescales for establishing the Council's corporate plan and budget strategy;
2. Converting the scheduled Council Forum on 30<sup>th</sup> August to the 2012 Policy Council, for adoption of the corporate plan 2012-2015;
3. Converting the scheduled Policy Council on 6<sup>th</sup> December to a Budget Finance Council to agree key budget decisions for 2013-2015; and
4. Maintain the scheduled Finance Council on 4<sup>th</sup> March to agree the final budget and set Council Tax for 2013-2014.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

The existing corporate plan was agreed in August 2011, following a lengthy period of consultation with the Leader of the Council, Executive Members and officers, (through SPTs), Policy and Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee and external partners. The corporate plan was intended to be an articulation of the Council's priorities for the borough.

The scale of the budget challenge for 2013-16 is once again a major issue for the Council. To meet this challenge, we need to address this matter urgently and earlier than our normally policy and budget process.

Clearly any budget must be based on the corporate priorities. Therefore, is it essential the corporate plan is agreed prior to the budget being discussed to ensure the budget reflects the key priorities.

A timetable has been developed that aims to ensure that the corporate plan is reviewed and priorities set, in good time to influence the Council's budget strategy and again, ensure that key decisions are made in time to deliver any required savings for 2013-2014.

Following this review process, it is intended that a formal and proactive launch of the plan be undertaken to ensure ownership and awareness of the plan, the vision and priorities at member and officer level.

#### 4. RATIONALE

Bringing forward the timescales for establishing the Council's corporate plan and budget strategy, will ensure that a robust articulation of member's priorities, drives the budget setting process for the next two years.

The proposed timetable is as follows:

28 <sup>th</sup> June	Council Forum – agreement of new timescales
July – August	Consultation on Corporate Plan
30 <sup>th</sup> August	Scheduled Council Forum – <b><u>Propose to convert this to 2012 Policy Council for adoption of final Corporate Plan for 2012-2015</u></b>
6 <sup>th</sup> December	Scheduled Policy Council - <b><u>Proposed to convert this to Budget Finance Council – to agree key budget decisions for 2013-2015</u></b>
4 <sup>th</sup> March 2013	Scheduled Finance Council – to finalise budget and set Council Tax for 2013-2014

#### 5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report aims to establish the timetable for developing and adopting the Council's corporate plan, which will set the policy context and priorities for the Council for 2012-2015.

#### 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This report aims to establish the timetable for developing and adopting the Council's budget strategy for 2013-2015, which will be driven by the policy context and priorities outlined within the corporate plan for 2012-2015.

#### 7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications resulting from this report.

## **8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

This report aims to establish the timetable for developing and adopting the Council's corporate plan and budget strategy for the coming years. There are likely to be implications for all of the Council's services and resources when the corporate plan and budget strategy are agreed, and subsequent reports will need to capture the detail of these implications. These implications will also form part of the discussions and decision making process for the revised Policy and Finance Councils.

## **9. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

An equality impact assessment is not applicable for this report, as this simply establishes the timetable for developing the corporate plan 2012-15 and budget strategy for 2013-2015.

Full equality impact assessments will be conducted and produced for both the corporate plan and the budget strategy, to ensure that any implications are identified and addressed accordingly.

## **10. CONSULTATIONS**

Consultation has been undertaken with the Leader of the Council.

### **Chief Officer/Member**

Contact Officer: Graham Burgess  
Date: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012  
Background Papers: Corporate Plan 2011-2013  
Medium Term Financial Strategy 2012-2015

Background documents are any files, guidance or other materials that have been relied upon in producing the paper. Any background documents listed must be available for public inspection upon request.

*Form Reference Standard Committee Report Template May 2012 1.0*