



EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

REPORT OF: Leader (Please Select...)

LEAD OFFICERS: Deputy Chief Executive

DATE: 10 November 2016

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED: (Please Select...)

WARD/S AFFECTED: All

KEY DECISION: YES NO

SUBJECT: Report on the progress against the Corporate Plan 2016/2017 for six months (April to September 2016).

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To provide Executive Board the opportunity to review progress against the Council's strategic priorities documented within the Corporate Plan and to provide assurance that appropriate actions are being taken to address key areas of concern.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

1. Note the overall performance against the delivery of the Council's strategic objectives as illustrated in Appendix One
2. Note the remedial action to improve delivery against those priorities which are giving cause for concern, as outlined in Appendix Two.

3. BACKGROUND

This report tracks the progress of performance against the Council's strategic objectives for six months (April to September 2016).

The Corporate Plan measures, baselines and targets have been refreshed for 2016/19 to make sure that the Council continues to strive for improvements in service delivery, within an extremely challenging financial context. The refreshed document was presented to Council Forum in July 2016 and was formally adopted.

Following the identification of the priorities below, the Council's Corporate Plan 2016/9 is a means through which the priorities can be communicated to our residents, elected members and staff.

For further information, please see background papers; Corporate Plan 2016/19 Summary and 2016/19 Technical Appendix.

The Council's priority objectives for residents are:

1. Creating more **jobs** and supporting business growth
2. Improving **housing** quality and building more houses
3. Improving **health and well-being**
4. Improving outcomes for our **young people**
5. Safeguarding the most **vulnerable people**
6. **Making your money go further**

The four long term strategic themes will be distilled into every portfolio to complement the Corporate Priorities.

The themes are:

- Image and Marketing of the borough
- Fairness / Equality / Cohesion
- Partnership working - residents / business / other key stakeholders
- Digital First

By adopting the themes the council will commit itself to further transforming how both the Borough is perceived and how it operates whilst also ensuring that the local authority is fit for purpose in the current online and digital landscapes. Therefore, by considering the themes in conjunction with the Corporate Priorities the local authority and its Executive will continue its work in mitigating the impact on residents during the present economic and legislative 'tough times'.

As per previous years, robust performance management arrangements will continue to be in place to monitor and ensure the delivery of the Corporate Plan.

The performance framework continues to see performance discussed and challenged with Directors and also includes a direct challenge from the Leader of the Council to the Executive Members on a six monthly basis.

Internal quality assurance checks, through the established Council challenge process, aim to ensure the robustness of the data and information included in all performance monitoring reports. Executive Board are asked to note that some figures may change in future reports, as a result of these quality assurance checks.

Each portfolio has been asked to allocate a red / amber / green forecast to the measures that they own. The following guidelines have been provided to ensure a standardised approach to allocating these forecasts.

Red

- The measure is likely to fail or perform poorly in the future
- The measure falls below a set national target / statutory required performance.
- The measure may also be below a minimum requirement for the particular service as agreed by the department
- The lead department perceives there could be a potential serious risk to the Council

Amber

- The measure is at risk of failure, but the lead department feels this is currently being managed
- Actions are or need to be in place to ensure that the end of year position is achieved

Green

- The measure is on target/ over performing / over achieving (if departmental target has been set)
- The lead department perceives there is currently no risk to the council in relation to this measure.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

4.1 Performance overview

There are now 99 measures within the Corporate Plan linked to the Council's priority objectives.

The table below shows a breakdown of the measures across the portfolios:

Portfolio	Total	Red	Amber	Green	Awaiting data
Leaders Cllr Mohammed Khan	9	0	3	6	0
Resources Cllr Andy Kay	17	1	11	5	0
Regeneration Cllr Phil Riley	11	2	3	5	1
Environment Cllr Jim Smith	8	0	0	8	0
Leisure, Culture and Young People Cllr Damian Talbot	10	0	1	9	0
Neighbourhoods and Prevention Services Cllr Arshid Mahmood	11	1	3	6	1
Adults Cllr Mustafa Desai	6	0	4	2	0
Public Health Cllr Mustafa Desai	7	0	5	2	0
Children's Services Cllr Maureen Bateson	12	1	5	6	0
Schools and Education Cllr Dave Harling	8	0	0	4	4
Total	99	5	35	53	6

Of the 99 measures information for the period is as follows:

- 5% (5 actual) have been forecast as "red" where performance is, or is likely to be off track
- 35% (35 actual) have been forecast "amber" where delivery is on track and currently being managed
- 54% (53 actual) have been forecast "green" or on track
- 6% (6 actual) of the measures a RAG rating is not available

The purpose of this report is to provide a picture of overall performance and highlight any key issues of concern which are in need of closer monitoring and follow up action. Information on all Corporate Plan measures and key issues raised through the performance challenge process are documented for Executive Board, in two separate appendices, as follows:

1. Appendix One shows a summary of all Corporate Plan priorities, highlighting those areas that are forecast as being on track; those where delivery is not going as planned and those where performance is forecast as off track or likely to be off track. Please note performance data is provisional and is subject to validation.
2. Appendix Two provides exception reports for priorities which are considered to be off track.

4.2 Additional information

During the past six months the Borough and the Council has done much to ensure that together we meet the challenges being faced in these unprecedented tough times. Despite this period of uncertainty the Council continues to support business and create new jobs, build more houses, improve housing quality and health and well-being, whilst ensuring no young person is left behind by improving their outcomes. We will continue to safeguard the most vulnerable in our society and ensure that residents and the Council continue to make our resources go as far as possible enabling us to provide quality services that our communities deserve and expect. Examples of this in the past six months are:

Improved staff attendance at work (April - September 2016) latest data 4.0 days per FTE.

The council has continued to deliver on its pledge to improve staff attendance at work. It is supporting all departments by launching new systems that improve sickness management, offering wellbeing incentives and free health and wellbeing checks. Since 2013 the average number of days absent per employee per year has fallen. The Resources portfolio and all other portfolios see this as a key priority and will continue to work with departments and staff to manage absence by taking early preventative action to limit days lost to sickness that will help the council to reduce absence per employee on average to 8 days.

Blackburn Business Improvement District (BID)

Blackburn BID activities to help improve and promote the town centre have made a significant contribution to the town's recent award nominations. Blackburn has been shortlisted from 900 entries in the Great British High Street competition and named as one of the top three in the 'Town Centre of the Year' category. Blackburn has also been invited to the North West Britain In Bloom Awards on 29th October. Regional judges were blown away by the quality of the town's floral displays after a visit to the Flower Festival and encouraged the town to submit a special application after this year's deadline.

Key highlights since April 2016 include the St George's Day celebration 'Here Be Dragons' in April saw seven theatrical dragons descend on the town to entertain young and old alike. More than 1,000 visitors gathered at venues including Blackburn Market and The Mall Shopping Centre. Countryside Comes to Town on 25th June featured CBeebies Mr Bloom and attracted an additional 26,000 additional visitors to the town centre.

For the second year running, Blackburn BID invested an additional £25,000 to enhance the town's planting. The funding also pays for an additional gardener during June to September to help the Council maintain the town's floral displays and green spaces. Supported by Blackburn BID, Blackburn Businesses Against Crime (BBAC) achieved the highest standard for a crime partnership, a pass with distinction, by the National Association of Business Crime Partnerships (NABCP).

Looking ahead. October 2016 see's the Blackburn BID launch 'Blackburn's BIG Christmas 2016' with a dedicated promotional website that pulls together a packed programme of festive events, shopping experiences and Christmas news for the town – <http://blackburnchristmas.com/>.

This year the BID will deliver the Christmas Lights Switch on, 26th of November and promise a show like no other in the North. The Sci-Fi themed event to link in with Blackburn Comic Convention at King Georges Hall, will include Boogie Storm (Star Wars dancers from ITV Britain's Got Talent), the Batmobile, the Ghost Busters car and the Stay Puft Marshmallow man.

Other festive events planned by the BID in partnership with the Council include a Giant Nutcracker Prize Trail from 3rd December, a giant Christmas Street Fair that will see 4 large marquees full of food, drink, crafts and gifts across the town centre on 10th December and the annual Community Lantern Parade on 17th December. The BID will also fund up to 160 additional lamp post column features to compliment the Council's existing Christmas lighting display.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The attached performance monitoring report provides information on progress against the Council's strategic objectives as set out in the Corporate Plan for 2016/2019.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications as a direct result of this report. Financial implications of any actions referred to in the report will be included in an appropriate briefing paper.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no resource implications as a result of this report. Resource implications of any actions referred to in the report will be included in an appropriate briefing paper.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision.

<http://www.blackburn.gov.uk/General%20EIA/Corporate-Plan-2016-19-EIA-v1.0.pdf>

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*

10. CONSULTATIONS

The report has been developed in consultation with the relevant Council officers and Executive Member.

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded in the Summary of Decisions published on the day following the meeting.

VERSION: 1.1

CONTACT OFFICER:	Denise Park
DATE:	18 th October 2016
BACKGROUND PAPER:	