

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

24 June 2009

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN**Report by Chief Executive****ABSTRACT**

This report seeks the Council's approval for the revised Corporate Plan following the completion of a broad consultation process.

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

1.1 It is recommended that the Council:

- i) Consider the requests for changes to the Corporate Plan received during the consultation period;
- ii) Agree changes to the Corporate Plan as recommended in Tables 1 and 2.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 In 2006 the Council agreed its Corporate Plan for 2007-2010. The Plan set out the Council's vision, values, aims and objectives for the area and its people and is part of the Council's Strategic Planning Framework.

2.2 The Plan ensured a "golden thread" from Vision through to Objectives could be demonstrated so that the achievement of desired outcomes can be seen to contribute to achieving the Council's vision for the area.

2.3 The advent of the Concordat and Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) has meant a significant change in the policy environment within which the Council and our Community Planning Partners work.

2.4 As part of the process of continual evaluation of the Council's readiness for the future, it is important to review the constituent parts of the Council's Strategic Planning Framework to ensure these reflect the SOA and the overall policy environment.

2.5 The Corporate Plan has now been revised and refreshed to properly articulate what the Council and Council services intend to do in delivering the priorities in the SOA.

2.6 The revised draft Corporate Plan was considered by Council on 6 May 2009 as part of the consultation process.

3 THE CORPORATE PLAN

- 3.1 The revised draft Corporate Plan is now a more concise document that sets out clearly the Council's ambition to be an excellent organisation, delivering high performing quality services that meet the needs of users and communities.
- 3.2 It continues to demonstrate the Council's commitment to improving services; enhancing the quality of life of our citizens and making best use of public resources. It gives a commitment to deliver excellence through developing our people, modernising our organisation and working constructively in partnership with other bodies to deliver high quality services to our local communities.

4 CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 4.1 The draft Corporate Plan has been subject to a formal public consultation process including a Strategic Environmental Assessment. This consultation period began on 6 April 2009 and concluded on 29 May 2009.
- 4.2 This has involved a Consultation Draft Corporate Plan being sent to all Community Councils, Community Planning Partners, a wide range of voluntary sector organisations, Tenants and Residents groups, the Community Equalities Group and other representative groups. The draft document was also available on the Council website.
- 4.3 This resulted in nine responses that articulate broad support for the direction and approach that is taken in the Corporate Plan. Some of these responses include requests for amendments to be made to the draft Plan prior to finalising it. These requests and recommendations as to whether the draft Corporate Plan is amended accordingly are detailed on the following page. (*Table 1*).

Table 1

Organisation	Requested amendments to Corporate Plan	Recommendation
Stanley Community Council	None	Not applicable
Women's Aid	More specific reference to domestic abuse	Approve reference to domestic abuse could be included on page 7
	Statistics re domestic abuse should incorporated within indicators	Do not approve; indicators relating to domestic abuse are already included in a range of supporting
	Commitment to funding for voluntary sector is needed to ensure charitable sector remains viable.	Do not approve; Specific funding issues are not considered within the Corporate Plan
Auchterarder and District Community Council	Aims and objectives should recognise <i>attractiveness</i> of area, the <i>unspoilt</i> environment and the need for communities and economy to be <i>resilient</i> .	Not approved; significant debate has already been undertaken and underpins agreement of existing aims and objectives
	Out-of-school care, non-uniformed youth activities and venues should have higher profile. Objective 5 should be extended.	Not approved; concerns referred to Education and children's Services for consideration in respect of other supporting plans.
VisitScotland	None	Not applicable
NHS Tayside	None	Not applicable
Forestry Commission	Role and contribution of forestry and woodland in P&K should be recognised through reference to Scottish Forestry Strategy included in 'Strategies that will help deliver' section in Objective 1, 2 & 3	Approve
Perth and Kinross Tenants and Residents Federation	There should be an emphasis on 1) dealing with the recession, encouraging local companies to provide employment for local people; 2) catering for all, including migrants	Approve; additional emphasis on inclusion could be included on p17
Perth and Kinross Domestic abuse and Violence Against Women Forum	Should be greater emphasis on domestic abuse and violence against women in Objectives 1, 2 & 5. Information should also be included regarding the Gender Equality Duty	Approve; reference to domestic abuse could be included on page 7.
Scottish Natural Heritage (Tayside and Clackmannanshire)	The importance of the natural environment as an asset does not seem to have been reflected.	Approve; addition to the text could be made on page 7.
	Need to strengthen natural heritage component in Objective 1 by including a further key priority and indicators.	Do not approve; this is adequately covered in other strategic plans including the Single Outcome Agreement.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no resource implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

6 COUNCIL CORPORATE PLAN OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 This report seeks approval for the Council's revised Corporate Plan, which outlines the Council's vision, aims and priorities.

7 EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 The Corporate Plan presented in this report was considered under the Corporate Equalities Assessment Framework and the determination was made that the items summarised in this report do not require further assessment. As part of the consultation process the Draft Corporate Plan was presented to the Communities Equalities Advisory Group and discussion was undertaken with representatives of equalities groups.

8 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a legal requirement under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that applies to all qualifying plans, programmes and strategies, including policies (PPS).
- 8.2 The determination was made that the Corporate Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects and as a consequence an environmental assessment was necessary. An Environmental Report has been completed and was submitted to the Consultation Authorities together with the draft Corporate Plan for their consideration during the consultation period. This report was also made available to other consultees and the public.
- 8.3 Responses to the Environmental Report have been received from all three Consultation Authorities. The responses also include requests for amendments to be made to the draft Plan; these are detailed alongside recommendations as whether the draft Corporate Plan and Environmental Report are amended accordingly as detailed on the following page. (*Table 2*)

Table 2

Strategic Environmental Assessment Consultation Authority Responses to the Environmental Report

Historic Scotland Action requested	Recommendations	
	Corporate Plan	Environmental Report
The SEA exercise of the plan highlights the largely uncertain environmental effects it will have on the environment because it depends on how the Corporate Plan is taken forward and implemented by lower level plans and policies. Post Adoption Statement to include a clear commitment to delivering any recommendations for lower level plans and policies that fall from this process as the plan is implemented.		Approve action re Post Adoption Statement
The historic environment has not be clearly represented in the SEA objectives that are assessed against the Corporate Plan's objectives and sub objectives.		Approve referral to The Environment Service (TES) for consideration in future assessments.
There is no reference to any historic environment legislation or policy included in the environmental assessment in the ER. This information could be included in the revised Environmental Report (ER)		Approve action re revised ER
It is suggested that a historic environment protection objective similar to the one used for wildlife habitats and species is included in the SEA objectives and sub objectives used to assess each component of the Corporate Plan		Approve referral to TES for consideration in future assessments.
It could be interpreted that commitment to protect the historic environment is included in commitment to the built environment, however, it may be clearer if a separate commitment to protecting the historic environment was added.	Approve amendment to Corporate Plan making reference to commitment to protect the historic environment	
It would be more accurate to conclude that it is not possible to determine the overall impact of the Corporate Plan on the historic environment. This is because the impact will depend on the actions taken to implement the plan.		Approve action re revised ER
Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) Action requested	Recommendations	
	Corporate Plan	Environmental Report
The assessment findings in relation to the SEA issues within our remit (air, water, soil, waste, human health and climatic factors) are agreed with in general.	No action required.	
As the monitoring framework proposed in the ER is developed consideration will need to be given on how to link the proposed indicators to significant environmental effects and any unforeseen adverse effects arising from the implementation of the Corporate Plan.		Approve referral to TES for consideration in future assessments.

Table 2 continued

Scottish Natural Heritage Action requested	Recommendations	
	Corporate Plan	Environmental Report
While SNH agree with the findings and recommendations in the ER (see page ?) , they have concerns regarding the process by which the findings of the ER are taken into account in the finalisation of the Corporate Plan. The recommendations of this SEA should influence the Corporate Plan 2009-12 which is the subject of the SEA, and not a future review of the Plan.	Approve incorporation of recommendations of ER in the current draft Corporate Plan	Approve action re Post Adoption Statement
Comments provided in response to the Scoping Report do not seem to have been taken account of in the SEA objectives listed in the ER.	Noted	Noted
Although certain impacts (e.g. biodiversity) are recorded as significant negative impact, the ER also states that "no significant cumulative or synergistic effects have been identified, also regionally the negative environmental impacts of the Corporate Plan will not be counterbalanced by improvements in other areas."		Approve action re Post Adoption Statement

11. CONCLUSION

- 11.1 This report seeks approval for the Council's revised Corporate Plan which clearly articulates an ambitious vision for the future for our area, our communities and our families.

BERNADETTE MALONE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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