

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**CORPORATE ACTION PLAN 2007/2008**

**Agenda Item 5b**

**Contact Details:-** Sara Moutard  
**Designation:-** Head of Policy  
**Ext. No:-** 2361  
**E Mail Address:-** sara.moutard@braintree.gov.uk

**Background Papers:-** Corporate Action, Improvement and Performance Plan 2006/2007  
**Financial Implications:-** The majority of projects are being funded through existing budgets or through the approved Capital Programme for 2007/08. Where they are not they have been agreed through the budget setting process.  
**Equalities Implications:-** None  
**Legal Implications:-** None  
**Options:** To approve or not the proposed initiatives and projects which will be delivered in the community during 2007/2008  
**Risks:** Risks in relation to each initiative and project will be addressed in individual project or business plans. An assessment as to whether risk is high, medium or low in relation to each will be included in the Action Plan.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report summarises the key corporate documents which will be produced in 2007/08 as a further development of the Corporate Action, Improvement and Performance Plan 2006/07. It also sets out some of the projects and initiatives which will be delivered in the community during 2007/08 and which will be included in the Corporate Action Plan 2007/08.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- (1) That the projects and initiatives which are to be delivered during 2007/08 and included in the Corporate Action Plan 2007/08 be noted
- (2) That the Leader of the Council be given delegated authority to approve the final document
- (3) That it be communicated to all members, partners, stakeholders and the public when complete

## **Background**

The projects and actions which were programmed for delivery in 2006/07 were all incorporated in the Corporate Action, Improvement and Performance Plan 2006/07.

Details of achievement against them will be set out in the Annual Plan which will be published in May / June this year.

Also included in that document were the planned organisational improvements which were scheduled for implementation in 2006/07, details of our performance during 2005/06 and our performance targets for 2006/07 as required for Best Value reporting purposes.

## **Moving Forward**

In 2007/08, and for purposes of clarity, it is proposed to change the format of the document into four separate supplements:

**1. *Corporate Action Plan***

This will set out the projects and initiatives which will be delivered in the District, with and for our local communities, together with details of the target dates and a brief assessment of the associated risk and resource implications of each project.

**2. *Corporate Performance Plan***

This will record:

- performance against the targets we set ourselves for 2006/07
- our position in relation to each indicator compared with other local authorities nationally
- the trend in relation to our performance against each indicator over the last three years
- targets, where appropriate, for the next three years

**3. *Corporate Improvement and Efficiency Plan***

This will comprise a management tool which will focus on improvements to the internal workings of the authority and the associated efficiencies. It will be a 'rolling' document and will be updated throughout the year as key improvements are identified – ie through audits, inspections, surveys etc.

**4. *Medium Term Financial Strategy***

This document sets out the Council's financial plans for the next three years. It includes projected savings requirements and outturns and summarises our overall projected financial position over that time.

The creation of four separate smaller documents, as opposed to one large but inclusive document, will assist with the programme management of the corporate systems and with monitoring and evaluation.

## **The Corporate Action Plan - Projects and Initiatives for 2007/08**

Details of some of the key projects and initiatives which will be included in the Plan are set out at Appendix 1. These are set out under the four headings which comprise the Council's Direction and Ambition namely:

**Create a cleaner and greener District**

**Help people to feel safe and well**

**Create a better place to live, work and play**

**Improve performance and deliver better value**

They will be achieved alongside the provision of our day-to-day core services.

Two of the key projects which will be delivered in 2007 are:

- the completion of the transfer of the Council's housing stock to the Greenfield's Community Housing Association (scheduled for November 1<sup>st</sup>) and
- the completion of the new Braintree Swimming Pool (scheduled for opening in the autumn).

The final version of the Corporate Action Plan will be completed in May 2007 and will be reported to Cabinet in June.

Sara Moutard  
Head of Policy

<b>APPENDIX 1</b> <b>Examples of Projects and Initiatives in 2007/2008</b>
---

**With all of our partners and stakeholders and with the involvement of the community, we will create a 20-year plan for the future of the District through the creation of a combined Local Development Framework and Community Strategy.**

At the same time that this is being developed the following projects and initiatives will be carried out in the coming year:

**Create a cleaner and greener District**

- Discovery Centre and Great Notley Country Park – development of a proposed partnership arrangement for the management and improvement of facilities
- Provision of water supply and site security at Station Field Allotments
- Dispose of 150 vehicles through the Council's Responsible Disposal Scheme
- Apply for a Green Flag award for Great Notley Country Park, Silver End Memorial Gardens and Halstead Public Gardens
- Improve the 'gateways' (ie. the main access points) into the District
- Continue to develop proposals and secure funding for the Halstead Town Centre River Walk
- Develop a Tree Strategy for the District and tree management system for Braintree District Council owned trees
- Host a public Sustainability Exhibition in Weavers Park in June to promote environmental issues
- Continue to lobby for a passing loop on the Braintree branch line

**Help people to feel safe and well**

- Ongoing monitoring in hot spot areas through the use of the new mobile CCTV facility
- Provision of external lighting at Braintree Leisure Centre
- Upgrade the current static CCTV system and improve the monitoring arrangements
- Host the 14<sup>th</sup> Crucial Crew event for Year 6 students from all Primary Schools in the District
- Host the 5<sup>th</sup> Reality Roadshow for all Year 9 students from across the District
- Continue to develop the Community Wardens service
- Continue to develop the Community Champions initiative
- Achieve 'Safer Parking' status for three more of our car parks
- Contribute to the development of additional dog kenneling capacity at RSPCA Wethersfield
- Buy a replacement mini bus for the Braintree District Community Transport Scheme

## **Create a better place to live, work and play**

- Carry out resurfacing works to the public car park at Springwood Industrial Estate
- Replace the tennis courts fencing at Silver End
- Provide fencing works and a barrier at Halstead Leisure Centre
- Work with partners to develop the Business Improvement District Project at Freebournes Industrial Estate in Witham
- Work with Parish Council and community groups to complete three more parish plans Produce a best practice guide for the creation of parish plans
- Jointly with Business Development Services (NW Essex) Ltd. Help to create 100 new business start ups in the District
- Refurbish Spring Lodge Community Centre in Witham
- Develop a Play Strategy for the District - identifying play projects to the value of £270,000 for delivery in 2007
- Achieve formal accreditation for the Museum Service
- Carry out repairs to the roof at the Town Hall in Braintree
- Refurbish more play grounds in the District including:
  - Glebe Avenue and Milton Avenue, Braintree
  - Spa Road and Bramble Road Witham
  - Mill Chase Halstead
  - Hillie Bunnies – Earls Colne
- In partnership with Essex County Council, develop a circular cycle route within the Great Notley Country Park and connect it to the Flich Way
- Prepare cycle parking and cycleway schemes in the following areas:
  - Marks Farm to Beckers Green
  - Maltings Lane to Howbridge Road, Witham
  - Bramble Road to Ebenezer Close, Witham
  - Blackwater Rail trail
  - Cut Throat Lane Witham
- Replace the football pitch at Spinks Lane, Witham
- Continue works to improve the pathways at the Council's cemeteries
- Design and develop proposals for a new community hall at Rickstones, Witham (subject to funding availability)
- Provide proposals and match funding for a 'Parks for People' bid for Maldon Road Park, Witham

## **Improve performance and deliver better value**

The raft of projects proposed for 2007/08 under this heading will mainly be incorporated into the Corporate Improvement and Efficiency Plan.