

**Annual Plan 2009 / 2010**

**Agenda Item 5b**

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**Background Papers:**

- 'One District – One Vision' – a Strategy for People and Places in the Braintree District to 2025
- Braintree District Council Corporate Strategy 2008-2012
- Corporate Action Plan 2008/2009
- Corporate Improvement Plan 2008/2009
- Corporate Performance Plan 2008/2009

**Financial Implications:** None at this stage

**Equalities Implications:** The Annual Plan will be equality impact assessed when it is available as a draft document

**Legal Implications:** None

**Options:** To agree or not agree the proposals in this report

**Risks:** None at this stage. The key challenges and projects for 2009-2010 will be considered as part of the review of strategic risks to be carried out shortly.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

During 2008/2009 some key challenges and projects have emerged under the themes of our Corporate Strategy. These are set out at Appendix 1. It is proposed that they will form the basis for prioritisation, action planning and resource allocation during 2009/2010.

In 2008/2009 there were three main documents which set out the projects, improvements and performance targets for that financial year and which showed how we would be working to achieve the objectives in our four year Corporate Strategy. They were:

- The Corporate Action Plan 2008/2009
- The Corporate Improvement Plan 2008/2009 and
- The Corporate Performance Plan 2008/2009.

Following feedback on these documents it has been decided to incorporate them into two documents in the future: An Annual Plan which will set out our plans and targets for the coming year and an Annual Review which will reflect on our performance and achievements over the past year.

The Annual Plan will be published in March in each year and the Annual Review will be published in June.

More detailed projects under each of the Corporate Strategy headings will be set out in the Annual Plan for 2009/2010 which will be reported to Cabinet in March.

### **Recommendation**

Cabinet is asked to agree the proposed priorities for action in 2009/2010 as set out in Appendix 1 to this Report.

Sara Moutard  
Head of Corporate Policy  
February 2009

**APPENDIX 1**  
**DELIVERING THE CORPORATE STRATEGY 2008-2012**  
**PROPOSED PRIORITY ACTIONS AND CHALLENGES FOR 2009/2010**

These give an outline of the key challenges which will be addressed through the development of projects which will be set out in the Annual Plan for 2009/2010.

Our overarching priority for 2009/2010 will be to support all our communities through the economic recession.

**The Environment is Clean and Green:**

To improve enforcement on environmental and planning issues

To continue to improve our recycling rates

To implement those projects which are scheduled for 2009/2010 in our Carbon Implementation Plan

**Business is encouraged and the local economy prospers:**

To continue with our plans to regenerate and re-energise each of the town centres exploring in particular the provision of improved leisure, theatrical, cultural and other community facilities

To work with stakeholders and funding agencies to identify opportunities to support new and emerging enterprises, existing and vulnerable businesses.

To create a focus for the investment of resources into addressing comparatively low levels of community and workplace qualifications and vocational skills.

**Everyone can enjoy a health lifestyle:**

To provide support, advice and guidance to the many communities in the District to help them during the period of economic recession

To work with NHS Mid Essex and others to develop healthy living initiatives across the District and to provide focussed support for older and vulnerable people who live in rurally isolated areas

To reduce perceived anti-social behaviour and create more integrated communities

**Housing and transport meet local needs:**

To continue the delivery of affordable housing in the District

To expand the role of the community transport service to better meet the needs of older and vulnerable people in our rural areas

**People take pride in their local areas:**

To enable local organisations to manage our local publicly owned facilities (including our community halls) where possible and appropriate

To enhance our role as community leader in local areas

**We deliver excellent, cost-effective and valued services:**

To manage our finances efficiently – including:

- holding down any Council Tax rises to 2.5% or below during any period of economic recession over the next three years
- focussing investment in the Council's facilities where it will make the greatest impact on the quality of life of local communities
- ensuring value for money across all the Council's services – particularly those areas where costs are high.

To set clear standards of service for all aspects of the Council's business so that customers can better judge the Council's performance.

To deliver excellent, quality services which meet local needs. Where there are alternative providers for services which are not the Council's primary responsibility, the Council will seek to ensure the most efficient and effective alternative provision.