

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	18 September 2008
Subject:	Year Ahead Statement
Key Decision:	Yes
Responsible Officer:	Tom Whiting, Assistant Chief Executive
Portfolio Holder:	Paul Osborn, Portfolio Holder for Performance, Communication and Corporate Services
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Encl 1 – “Year Ahead Statement”

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the proposed Year Ahead Statement that should be used to drive the direction of Corporate and Service Improvement Planning for 2009/10. It will be consulted on with the Residents Panel.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is requested to:

1. Agree the proposed Year Ahead Statement and Corporate Priorities for consultation with residents through the Residents’ Panel.

Reason: (For recommendation)

The Council adopts a Year Ahead Statement to drive the Corporate and Service Planning process for 2009/10. This results in the agreement of a Corporate Plan and Service Improvement Plans at Cabinet February 2009, alongside the budget.

Section 2 – Report

Introductory paragraph

This document is the second Year Ahead Statement that the Council has published. It is produced for September Cabinet as laid out in the Council's new Integrated Planning Process that was agreed at Cabinet July 2007.

Options Considered

A range of potential priorities have been discussed at an Away Day for the Majority Group and by Corporate Strategy Board. While many of the proposed priorities had merit and also described similar ideas in different ways, the proposals put forward in this report represent the clearest and simplest expression of the issues of most importance to Harrow residents and the actions that the Council can take to respond to them.

Background – Objectives and Process

The Council adopted a new Integrated Planning Process at Cabinet July 2007. A key recommendation in the Integrated Planning Process is to publish a Year Ahead Statement at Cabinet each year.

The purpose of the Year Ahead Statement is to consider the key contextual changes that have taken place affecting Harrow that should be considered in setting the Corporate Priorities for the subsequent year.

These contextual changes include:

- The latest results of consultation via the Mori Quality of Life Survey
- The outcomes of key performance indicators during 2007/08 and the new National Indicator Set for 2008/09
- The results of value for money benchmarking
- External policy changes driven by Central Government
- Local and regional policy changes.

An analysis of the key changes in these areas is included in Appendix A. The report identifies how each Corporate Priority has been derived and how each Priority is driven by the contextual changes above.

The Year Ahead Statement starts the planning process for 2009/10. It will result in the adoption of a new Corporate Plan and set of Service Improvement Plans in February 2009 alongside the budget. The Corporate Priorities suggested in the report will be used by service directorates for the purposes of planning their services for 2009/10. In parallel these priorities will be consulted on with residents through the Residents' Panel.

The priorities proposed for 2009/10 are

- Better streets;
- Improve support for vulnerable people; and
- Build stronger communities.

Implications of the Recommendation

Considerations

Staffing/workforce

The Corporate Priorities will be communicated widely to the workforce after the Corporate Plan has been agreed at Cabinet in February.

Equalities impact

Any decisions driven by the adoption of the new Corporate Priorities will need to be assessed through an Equalities Impact Assessment.

Legal comments

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications

The Corporate Priorities in this report should be used as a basis for prioritising investment in the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2009/10 onwards.

Performance Issues

The Year Ahead Statement will feed into the new Use of Resources element of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). Under the CAA the Council will be measured on the clarity of its ambition and priorities. Under the last Corporate Assessment the Council scored a 2 out of 4 for both of these elements of the framework. A key recommendation of the Corporate Assessment was that the Council should clarify and simplify its vision and priorities. The attached report shows further clarification and simplification of the priorities adopted for 2008/09.

Risk Management Implications

The risks arising from the new Corporate Priorities will be measured through the Council's Strategic Risk Register.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Sheela Thakrar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Chief Financial Officer
Date: 27 th August 2008		
Name: Helen White	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Monitoring Officer
Date: 27 th August 2008		

Section 4 – Performance Officer Clearance

Name: Tom Whiting



Assistant Chief
Executive

Date: 26th August 2008

Section 5 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Mike Howes, Policy & Partnerships Manager 5637