

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Overview and Scrutiny Committee **DATE:** 16th April 2009

CONTACT OFFICER: Roger Parkin
(For all enquiries) Strategic Director for Improvement & Development
(01753) 875207 or 875172

WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR CONSIDERATION & COMMENT**

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

1 Purpose of Report

This report informs the Committee of the contents of the Strategic Plan. It also explains the planned dates for publication. The Strategic Plan is attached as Appendix A.

2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

The Committee are requested to note and comment upon the contents of the Strategic Plan.

3 Community Strategy Priorities

The Strategic Plan links to all the priorities in the Sustainable Community Strategy. It explains the Council's role in the delivery of each of these priorities.

4 Other Implications

(a) Financial

There are no major financial implications. Costs are limited to design and printing costs which are estimated to be £1,453 for 100 colour copies.

(b) Risk Management

No risks have been identified.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act or Legal implications.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

An equalities impact initial screening has not been carried out on this strategy. An assumption has been made those individual elements of the strategy that relate to a new or substantially revised policy, procedure or function will have been previously screened.

5 **Supporting Information**

The Strategic Plan replaces our Corporate Plan and is a high level document giving an overview of the Council's strategy and priorities. This version of the plan covers a two year period (2009 -2011) to bring it into line with the Local Area Agreement and our associated three year planning cycle. In the future it will cover a three year period. The plan will be updated at the end of years 1 and 2.

Our Corporate Plan ended in 2008. This was noted by inspectors and raised by them in discussions about the Direction of Travel Statement (part of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment). It was also raised by inspectors as part of the Sustainability Inspection. These inspectors have seen a very early draft of the plan. Commitments have been made by us to have a plan in place by 20th April 2009 (the planned date for Cabinet to consider the draft document).

The main audience is residents and other stakeholders (such as businesses and partners). It will also be useful to staff as it brings together and links key parts of the Council's strategic activity. Although not statutory, there is an expectation from external inspectors that we will have such a document.

It should be seen as part of a suite of documents that we will be publishing:

- The Strategic Plan (this document) which will normally run for a three year period – the same three years as our Local Area Agreement. In the interim years we will publish a shorter Plan, updated to reflect any changes;
- The Annual Report - to be published in early summer each year, which will look back on progress during the previous year and report on the performance of our services against national and local performance indicators. It shows our performance at the end of the year and gives budget information for the following year;
- The Annual Consultation Report – this will summarise the main findings from consultation and research and how we are changing what we do as a result; and
- The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) – this explains about the resources we need to meet our priorities and how we allocate them.

The Plan will be printed following Cabinet on 20th April (assuming they endorse it). There is a limited amount of design work to do. This will take between 4-6 weeks.

The final document will be:

- Distributed externally to libraries and to key partners;
- Distributed to Members; and
- Made available on the website and SBC Insite.

A small number of copies will be kept so that they can be supplied to inspectors and other visitors as the need arises.

6 **Comments of Other Committees**

The Cabinet will consider the plan on 20th April and is being recommended to approve it for publication and distribution, subject to further textual amendments made by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

7 **Conclusion**

The Strategic Plan is an important document for the Council as it sets out its strategy at the highest level. It is not intended to cover all Council activities but to provide an overview of Council activity that will make sense to residents. Consequently it necessarily focuses on those things that are more likely to be of interest to residents.

8 **Appendices Attached**

'A' - Strategic Plan 2009-2011

9 **Background Papers**

'1' - Sustainable Community Strategy

'2' - Local Area Agreement