



AGENDA ITEM: 10
SUMMARY

Report for:	Cabinet
Date of meeting:	27 November 2012
PART:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Corporate Plan 2012 - 2015
Contact:	<p>Cllr Andrew Williams – Leader of the Council</p> <p>Author/Responsible Officer: Daniel Zammit – Chief Executive</p>
Purpose of report:	To agree the content and text of the Council's Corporate plan 2012 – 2015, for finalisation and publication, setting out the vision, priorities and delivery arrangements.
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Corporate Plan 2012-15 be finalised and recommended to Council for adoption and publication and that the Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer be given delegated authority to make the consequential changes to the Council's Constitution, including the Procurement Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. . 2. That the Policy on Disposals of Land at Less Than Best Consideration (Annex A2) presented be recommended to Council for adoption , in conjunction with the Corporate Plan, as the Council's approach to asset disposal in cases where 'less than best consideration' presents a significant economic well-being opportunity. 3. That progress on the priorities and delivery arrangements set out in the Plan be reported to Cabinet and Council in November 2013
Corporate objectives:	The Corporate Plan clarifies the Council's Corporate objectives.
Implications:	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>The cost of producing the Corporate Plan is absorbed within</p>

<p>'Value For Money Implications'</p>	<p>budget.</p> <p>Delivery of the priorities and programmes set out in the plan will be integral to the Council's budget processes</p> <p><u>Value for Money</u></p> <p>Value for money and efficiency is a priority within the Plan.</p>
<p>Risk Implications</p>	<p>The Corporate Plan sets out the council's priorities and aims. Delivery on these is underpinned by associated work programmes. Success on stated outcomes will enhance the Council's reputation as Leaders of place.</p>
<p>Equalities Implications</p>	<p>The Council's approach to equalities is a specific feature of the Corporate Plan.</p>
<p>Health And Safety Implications</p>	<p>There are no health and safety implications specific to the Plan.</p>
<p>Monitoring Officer/S.151 Officer Comments</p>	<p>Monitoring Officer:</p> <p>The Monitoring Officer's comments have been incorporated into the report.</p> <p>S.151 Officer</p> <p>The Corporate Plan is a key document within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework and is used to prioritise the Council's resources.</p> <p>Financial Regulation D paragraphs 23 to 24 and Annex F govern the disposals of Council assets which will require consequential amendments on the policy is adopted.</p>
<p>Consultees:</p>	<p>The vision and priorities were agreed in 2010 following extensive consultation</p>
<p>Background papers:</p>	<p>DBC Economic Development Strategy 2012-15</p> <p>'Dacorum Delivers' programme</p> <p>DBC Performance Monitor</p> <p>'Destination Dacorum' plan</p>
<p>Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:</p>	<p>A glossary of terms will be incorporated into the final, published version of the Plan.</p>
<p>Annexes:</p>	<p>Annex A1: Statutory position of disposals of land at less than best consideration.</p> <p>Annex A2: Policy on Disposals of Land at Less than Best Consideration</p>

Annex B: Draft Corporate Plan – 2012-2015

BACKGROUND

1. The Council's vision and five priority areas, agreed in 2010, remain in place to 2015.
2. The draft Corporate Plan presented here, as a separate document, sets out specific aims within the five priority areas and a small number of key Performance Indicators to assist the Council, and others, to measure success in terms of delivery.
3. The draft Plan also explains the internal arrangements for delivering the aims.
4. Much of the Council's business is as community Leaders, understanding the communities served, and the wider context, to improve the quality of life of all residents.
5. This influencing and partnership, role is becoming increasingly important as the national scene shifts, and as our local partners (such as those within the NHS and policing), undergo significant change.
6. The Council itself offers wide ranging day to day services which residents rely on either through direct delivery, or through providers. These are not all covered in the Plan, but are not taken for granted and delivery is the subject of familiar performance monitoring arrangements.
7. The Plan is designed primarily to clarify priorities in the strategic area of growth, regeneration and affordable homes, as a focus for collective effort over the coming years, and reinforces the Council's recently adopted Economic Development Strategy and the 'Destination Dacorum' plan, delivered through partnership.
8. The intention is to reinforce that position through a policy on disposals of land at less than best consideration which will serve as a statement of intent – Annex A2. This statement underpins the Council's overriding ambition to create the conditions for local growth and regeneration, set out in the Plan. The Cabinet is being asked to recommend to Council the adoption of such a policy in respect disposal of assets where, in exceptional circumstances, disposal could be at less than 'best consideration' or market value. This policy statement defines the circumstances for such consideration, and confirms the Councils' approach to due process, probity and governance.
9. Finally, as the Council is operating within a dynamic external environment and a range of possible scenarios for the future. The Plan sets out a number of 'guiding principles' to inform policy debates, and decision making.

Once the shape and content of the plan has been endorsed, and amended as necessary, the Plan will be finalised, linking to other documents as shown, published and promoted.

Policy on Disposals of Land at Less than Best Consideration

Purpose

The purpose of the policy is to send out the message internally and externally that the Council will seek imaginative solutions to drive its strategy on economic well-being

Background

Local Authorities are usually required to dispose of land and property on the basis of the best consideration (value) reasonably available. The statutory position is set out in Annex A1

Disposals at less than best consideration may only be justified

- a) if they involve indirect benefits, and a strong case can be presented in the context of the Local Authority's pursuit of strategic objectives and outcomes
- b) If the difference between the unrestricted value and the consideration does not exceed £2m, with exceptions for housing development involving Registered Social Landlords (see Appendix 1 paragraph 6)

There is also provision to seek consent from the Secretary of State to exceed the threshold in b) above.

In its vision 2011- 2015 the Council has priorities economic well-being, regeneration and affordable housing. This is being reinforced by the 2012 – 2015 Corporate Plan currently being adopted by the Council. The former Local Strategic Partnership for Dacorum has been succeeded by the 'Destination Dacorum' partnership with a specific remit for economic well-being.

The Corporate Plan sets out aims, and delivery arrangements, including a raft of major work programmes, and making it clear that resources will be deployed to secure this priority area, and with the Council playing a strong community leadership role to create the best possible conditions for local growth, local jobs, regeneration and the supply of affordable homes for local people.

Nationally the Government's 'Localism' agenda and associated legislation remains emergent, in respect of devolution and local freedom. How resources for growth are, or might be, decentralised beyond the 'cities' is also part of the strategic context and something that the Council and the 'Destination Dacorum' partnership will follow closely.

Taking account of these circumstances it is considered timely to produce a policy that underpins the Council's ambitions on behalf of the community, and demonstrates the Council's commitment to innovative solutions to disposals where less than best consideration has potential to drive the strategic aims of the Council, and those of 'Destination Dacorum'. Such a policy will be aligned to the Council's Asset Management Strategy.

If the Council is to make gains on growth and regeneration a progressive position on joint ventures could be explored. While this is not a specific 'best consideration' matter, but rather one of minimising procurement where appropriate, in exceptional circumstances, and within the overall context of best consideration, it could open up

opportunities for negotiating regeneration projects that would otherwise may not take place.

It is therefore incorporated within the Policy on Disposals of Land at Less Than Best Consideration (Annex A2 paragraph 8) as a signal that the Council's position on regeneration is ambitious and pro-active

The Policy as a Statement of Intent

Given the context outlined above the proposed Policy serves as a statement of intent designed to facilitate negotiations the Council may have with other parties, and will be an integral part of the Councils strategies and plans.