

Report of the Chief Executive

Policy Prospectus 2008/9

Summary

1. This reports asks the Executive to endorse the final draft of the policy prospectus for the municipal year 2008/9.
2. The policy prospectus has been developed in consultation with the council's political groups and represents the agreement between three of these that the topics it contains should be pursued as areas of priority over the next 12 months.

Background

3. Following last year's elections Leaders of the four political groups agreed a policy prospectus as part of a new set of political management arrangements which also included weekly meetings of Group Leaders. At the conclusion of the last municipal year, Group Leaders were again consulted on policy areas of importance as the continuation of these arrangements was negotiated by members.

Consultation

4. Following discussion with Group Leaders, The Conservatives, Green Party and Liberal Democrats have agreed to form a policy prospectus for the coming year. Each of these groups has contributed topics which now form the document shown at annex 1. This list also incorporates the review issues which were proposed by the Conservative Group and agreed in resolving this year's annual budget settlement. One topic from last year's policy prospectus which relates to pedestrian and cycle access at the railway station has also been included as it was not possible to progress last year.
5. The view of the three groups above is that the policy prospectus should be prioritised for officer support over the following year. The Labour Group, however, who withdrew from the political management arrangements in February, said that they will progress such matters as they consider relevant through the alternative mechanisms available by means of CYC's Constitutional and Council processes.
6. At its meeting on the 6th May the Executive agreed it should continue to receive papers relating to the previous policy prospectus and remain informed on the progression of the projects shown at annex 2. A number of constitutional items which featured in last year's policy prospectus were also included in the first draft of the document for 2008/9, though these have now been removed following confirmation from the Executive that they have been considered over the course of the last 12 months.

Corporate Priorities

7. The policy prospectus is intended to provide a framework for agreed political action which includes the Corporate Strategy in the draft list of issues under consideration.

Implications

8. Implications arising from the Policy Prospectus, will be included in individual review reports as they are brought forward, there are however no specific implications associated with this paper
 - **Financial** – There are no financial implications
 - **Human Resources (HR)** – There are no HR implications
 - **Equalities** - There are no equalities implications
 - **Legal** – There are no legal implications
 - **Crime and Disorder** – There are no crime and disorder implications
 - **Information Technology (IT)** – There are no IT implications
 - **Property** – There are no implications for property

Risk Management

9. This paper is intended to initiate a debate between the council's political Groups to ensure a continuation of the protocols which have underpinned the organisation's political management since last year's election. This report is timely in managing the risk associated with the present protocols expiring in May.

Recommendations

10. Members are asked to endorse the policy prospectus for the following municipal year.

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Bill McCarthy
Chief Executive

Report
Approved



Date 23rd April 2008

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes

- 1 Draft Policy Prospectus for 2008/9
- 2 Policy Prospectus 2007/8

Background Papers

Executive report 'Future political management arrangements at the City of York Council' 12th June 2007