Executive Summary

This Corporate Strategy sets out the future direction for the County Council, covering a timeframe to 2021 and beyond. It will form a framework which sets out:

- our vision, values, high level priorities and overall approach
- our evidence base
- thematic strategies, such as our financial strategy
- our risk, quality and performance framework
- service delivery plans
- annual budgets.

The Core Strategy document provides the starting point for that framework, setting out the core purpose, vision, values, approach and evidence base which we will use to inform and guide what we do and as a reference point for the further prioritisation of our financial resources.

The Core Strategy has been updated to take account of feedback received during the consultation period which ran from 20 August to 2nd October 2015. The draft updated Strategy is attached at Appendix ‘A’.

The refreshed evidence base, taking account of most recently available dataset, is attached at Appendix ‘B’.

Recommendations

The Cabinet is asked to recommend that Full Council agree the updated Corporate Strategy attached at Appendix ‘A’.

Background and Advice

The Corporate Strategy sets out the future direction for the County Council, covering a timeframe to 2021 and beyond. The Core Strategy document details the core purpose, vision, values, approach and evidence base which we will use to inform
and guide what we do, playing a key role in shaping the future pattern of the Council's services.

We consulted with key stakeholders over the period 20 August to 2 October 2015. During this period, we also held briefings for elected members and employees, who were provided with opportunities to seek clarification on both the strategy document and the supporting evidence base.

The key themes identified as a result of consultation feedback were:

- generally, support for the vision, values, strategic outcomes and priorities but a request for more detail on our future service delivery model and what that will mean in practice
- a desire for more emphasis and explanation of how we will work with partners, across all sectors
- the single neighbourhoods plan was being mistaken for 12 neighbourhood plans
- alignment of the 34 Service Planning Areas with political administration areas and planning areas used by Partners
- need for greater clarity in priorities related to the older population and rural communities
- the supporting evidence base needed to be refreshed to take account of the most recently available data.

The consultation feedback has informed some redrafting of the strategy which was presented for consultation. The key changes have been to:

- Simplify the language used to describe our priorities
- Provide a sharper focus on the financial challenges that we face
- Strengthen our aim of working with partners, across all sectors, to address the challenges that we collectively face
- Refresh our evidence base to take account of the most recently available datasets. The use of this latest data has changed the ranking of some of our communities. The community named "Preston East" has, for example, been replaced by "Burnley Central" as having the highest indices of need.

The draft updated Strategy is attached at Appendix 'A'.

The refreshed evidence base, taking account of most recently available dataset, is attached at Appendix 'B'.

Consultations

Stakeholders that have been consulted on the draft strategy include:

- Lancashire County Council Elected Members
- The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- The Lancashire Combined Fire Authority
- Recognised Trade Unions
- Borough, City and Unitary Councils in Lancashire
Risk management

The Corporate Strategy will provide the framework for all other key strategies and plans in the County Council. Not agreeing the recommendation to recommend that Full Council agree the draft strategy will mean that the County Council is potentially unable to progress work to ensure the delivery of appropriately targeted and financially viable services for the future.

An Equality Analysis has been completed and is attached at Appendix 'D'.

List of Background Papers

Corporate Strategy: Consultation
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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A