

# **Report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee**



**Date of meeting: 5 June 2008**

**Portfolio:** Finance and Performance Management

**Subject:** Best Value Performance Plan 2008/09

**Responsible Officer:** S. Tautz (01992 564180)

**Democratic Services Officer:** Adrian Hendry, Ext.4246

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## **Recommendations:**

**That the Committee consider the Council's draft Best Value Performance Plan for 2008/09, and comment to the Cabinet accordingly.**

## **Report**

1. The Local Government Act 1999 and the Best Value regime has until recently required all local authorities to publish an annual Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) by no later than the end of June each year. The adoption of the BVPP is a key decision and a matter reserved to the Council by its constitution. In addition, the BVPP is statutorily required to be formally adopted by the authority, and must therefore be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 9 June 2008, and at the meeting of the full Council on 26 June 2008.

2. The requirement to prepare an annual performance plan provides an opportunity for local authorities to articulate proposals for improvement in the coming year, including how weaknesses will be addressed, opportunities exploited and better outcomes delivered for local people. The Council's BVPP is required to.

- (a) summarise its successes in meeting its key priorities, objectives and targets for the last year (2007/08);
- (b) show where these priorities, objectives and targets were not met; and
- (c) detail key priorities, objectives and targets for the forthcoming year (2008/09).

3. The BVPP is produced in two versions each year. The detailed version subject of this report is primarily prepared for the Council itself, the Government, the Audit Commission, and other bodies involved in the evaluation and assessment of performance. It is intended that the audience for performance plans should be primarily the authority itself, as members and officers with responsibility for delivering local services need to be aware of priorities in order to influence improvement measures. However, the detailed BVPP is also available to those who require a comprehensive explanation of how well the Council is performing and its future plans. In addition and in accordance with a recommendation of the Audit Commission, a summary of the BVPP is distributed to all households in the district within the explanatory leaflet issued with the annual Council Tax demands in March each year. The draft version of the Council's BVPP for 2008/09 has been circulated separately to all members of the Council.

4. The statutory requirement to produce an annual BVPP has been revoked as part of the Government's new performance framework for local government, set out in the 2007

'Strong and Prosperous Communities' White Paper. This will therefore be the last performance plan to be produced in the current form, although it will nevertheless be important for the Council to continue to publish information in regard to its priorities and performance, and this may in future be achieved through an expansion of the E-Annual Report.

5. The BVPP is required to include details of outturn performance over the past year for the former Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs). Although these details are provided within the draft BVPP for the majority of BVPIs, the results of number of indicators are still being finalised, and it has not therefore been possible to include performance outturns for these indicators. These outstanding details will be incorporated within the BVPP prior to the consideration of the draft plan by the Council, together with key objectives to be identified by individual Portfolio Holders.

6. The Committee is requested to consider the draft BVPP for 2008/09, and to comment to the Cabinet accordingly. The draft BVPP has also been circulated to all members of the Finance and Performance Management Scrutiny Panel for 2007/08, which has not yet met during the 2008/09 municipal year. Any comments received from members of the Scrutiny Panel will also be reported direct to the Cabinet meeting.

#### **Resource Implications:**

Publication of the BVPP can be met from the budget and staff provision of the Performance Improvement Unit for 2008/09.

#### **Legal and Governance Implications:**

The publication of an annual BVPP is a requirement of the Local Government Act 1999. This statutory requirement has been revoked for 2009/10 onwards. There are no legal implications or Human Rights Act issues arising from the recommendations in this report.

#### **Safer, Cleaner and Greener Implications:**

There are no implications arising from the recommendations in this report for the Council's commitment to the Nottingham Declaration for climate change, the corporate Safer, Cleaner and Greener initiative, or any Crime and Disorder issues within the district.

#### **Consultation Undertaken:**

The draft BVPP for 2008/09 has been issued to all members of the Finance and Performance Management Scrutiny Panel. The format and content of the draft BVPP has been agreed by the Corporate Executive Forum.

#### **Background Papers:**

None

#### **Impact Assessments:**

There are no risk management or equality implications arising from the recommendations in this report. Risk management and equality implications arising from the Council's identified priorities, objectives and targets for 2008/09 will have been addressed by the relevant director.