

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 26 June 2008

Portfolio Holder: Councillor C Whitbread

Item: 10

1. BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2008/09

Recommending:

That the draft Best Value Performance Plan for 2008/09 be adopted.

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 not later than the end of June each year. 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 Council, and must therefore be considered at a meeting of the full Council.
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 which is the 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 Council 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.
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 The statutory requirement to produce an annual BVPP has been revoked as part of the Government's new performance framework for local government, set out in the 2007 'Strong and Prosperous Communities' White Paper.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 draft BVPP was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 5 June 2008, and was also circulated to all members of the Finance and Performance Management Scrutiny Panel. Comments made by the Committee and Scrutiny Panel members have been taken into account.
6. The Annual BVPP traditionally includes details of the priority objectives adopted by the Cabinet for the year ahead. The draft BVPP contains a number of key service objectives for 2008/09.
- ... 7. The draft BVPP for 2008/09 is attached.
8. We recommend as set out at the commencement of this report.