

# Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 19 May 2005

Portfolio Holder: Councillor J Knapman

Item: 12 (c)

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## 1. BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2005/06

### Recommending:

**(1) That the Best Value Performance Plan for 2005/06 be adopted; and**

**(2) That the Joint Chief Executive (Resources) be authorised to amend the Best Value Performance Plan as necessary after adoption by the Council, to incorporate outstanding details or issues raised as a result of any subsequent guidance on the content of performance plans issued by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.**

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1.1 The Local Government Act 1999 and the Best Value regime require the Council to produce an annual performance plan. The Council's Best Value Performance Plan for 2005/06 is attached as an Appendix to this report.

1.2 The plan is required to:

(a) summarise the Council's successes in meeting its key priorities, objectives and targets for 2004/05;

(b) show where these key priorities, objectives and targets were not met; and

(c) inform customers of the Council's key priorities, objectives and targets for 2005/06.

1.3 The Council's BVPP is produced in two versions each year. A detailed version is prepared for the Government, the Audit Commission and other bodies involved in the evaluation of the Council's performance, which is also made available to those who desire a comprehensive explanation of its plans and activities. It is this version which is being presented to the Council at this meeting. In addition and in accordance with the recommendation of the Audit Commission, a short summary of the BVPP is also distributed to all households in the District within the explanatory leaflet issued with the Annual Council Tax demands. This version was approved by the Council earlier in the year.

1.4 The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) issues guidance to local authorities about the content of BVPP's, stipulating what matters should be included or not included within plans. Authorities classified by Comprehensive Performance Assessment as either "excellent" or "good" have been given freedom from BVPP reporting in as much detail as other authorities.

- 1.5 In accordance with the Government's approach to de-regulation, it is no longer necessary to publish information in performance plans that can be obtained from other sources. As a result, the following no longer need to be published in the BVPP:
- (a) CPA scores;
  - (b) summary financial information;
  - (c) progress in implementing improvement measures over the past three years;
  - (d) progress against Local Public Service Agreements;
  - (e) details of the way in which the Council exercises its functions;
  - (f) the five-year programme of Best Value Service Reviews;
  - (g) an efficient summary or consultation statement;
  - (h) historical, quartile and other comparative data on Best Value Performance Indicators; and
  - (i) local performance indicator data.
- 1.6 A slightly revised format has been used for the plan for 2005/06 from that used in previous years. In order that the BVPP properly contributes to the performance management framework, the themes, aims and priorities within the plan have been linked wherever possible to those of the recently published Community Strategy for the District.
- 1.7 In addition and to reduce significantly the overall length of the document, it is proposed to remove from the BVPP the majority of the detail not now statutorily required and to transfer the corporate and strategic information usually included in the BVPP to a revised Council Plan that is currently in preparation.
- 1.8 However, areas such as the Council's CPA score and improvement proposals, the results of current Best Value Service Reviews and local performance indicator data continues to be included in the BVPP. Although not required to be included, it is considered to be appropriate to continue to include these matters and historical quartile and other comparative data as these details form part of the revised performance monitoring arrangements recently agreed as part of the review of the Council's approach to Overview and Scrutiny.
- 1.9 The Council is statutory required to publish its BVPP for 2005/06 by June 2005. The adoption of the plan is a matter reserved to the full Council. The plan has been subject to consultation with the Finance and Performance Management Cabinet Committee, Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3, Management Board and all Heads of Service.