

**Report to Finance and Performance
Management Overview and Scrutiny
Panel
Date of meeting: 25 April 2006**



Portfolio: Finance and Performance Management

Subject: Draft Best Value Performance Plan 2006/07

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Committee Secretary:

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Scrutiny Panel consider and comment on the proposed format and structure of the Council's draft Best Value Performance Plan for 2006/07.

Report:

1. (Head of Human Resources and Performance Management) The Local Government Act 1999 and the Best Value regulations requires all best value authorities to prepare an annual Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP), to provide an opportunity for to report on current performance articulate proposals for improvement for the coming year. The Plan is required to:
 - (a) summarise the Council's successes in meeting its key priorities, objectives and targets;
 - (b) show where these key priorities, objectives and targets were not met;
 - (c) inform customers of the Council's key priorities, objectives and targets for the next year;
 - (d) publish the outcomes of Best Value service reviews undertaken during the last year; and
 - (e) compare the Council's performance for with that for previous years.
2. The Council's Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) is produced in two versions each year. A detailed version of the Plan 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. In addition and in accordance with a 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.
3. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) issues occasional guidance to local authorities on the content of BVPPs, stipulating what matters should be included or not included within plans. As a result of guidance issued in March 2003 and March 2004, the following no longer need to be published in the BVPP:
 - (a) CPA scores (where available);
 - (b) Summary financial information;
 - (c) Progress in implementing improvement measures over the past three years (eg.

- Best Value Reviews);
 - (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 efficiency summary or consultation statement;
 - (h) Historical, quartile and other comparative data on Best Value Performance Indicators; and
 - (i) Local Performance Indicator data.
4. In accordance with previous practice, the majority of the detail not now statutorily required to be included in the BVPP has been removed and much of the corporate and strategic information usually included has transferred to the revised Council Plan that is currently in preparation. However, areas such as the Council's CPA score and improvement proposals, service reviews and local performance indicator data has continued to be included in the BVPP. Although not required to be included, historical, quartile and other comparative data on Best Value Performance Indicators will also continue to be incorporated within the BVPP, as these details form part of the revised performance monitoring arrangements agreed as part of the review of the council's approach to overview and scrutiny.
 5. The draft BVPP is attached for the consideration of the Scrutiny Panel, and follows the structure of the Plan for 2005/06. Members are asked to comment on the proposed format of the draft document, rather than making detailed comments on the content at this early stage. Subject to the agreement of the Panel to this draft version of the document, the BVPP will be referred to the Cabinet on 5 June 2006 and the Council meeting on 29 June 2006 for adoption.
 6. In considering the draft BVPP members will note that the reporting of outturn performance information for 2005/06 is outstanding, and that a number of other areas still also require completion. In view of the short space of time since the end of the year performance and other details cannot be incorporated at the present time, although all outturn performance information will be reported to the Panel at its meeting on 1 June 2006 and will be incorporated within the draft BVPP prior to consideration by the Cabinet and the Council and the eventual publication of the document.
 7. The Scrutiny Panel is requested to consider and comment on the proposed format and structure of the draft BVPP for 2006/07.

Reason for decision:

8. To enable the publication of the Best Value Performance Plan in accordance with the statutory timescale 2006.

Options considered and rejected:

9. None. The consideration of the proposed format and structure of the draft Best Value Performance Plan for 2006/07 allows for scrutiny of the Council's aims for next year and its performance in 2005/06.

Consultation undertaken:

10. All Heads of Service have contributed to the content of the draft BVPP.

Resource implications:

Budget provision: The production and publication of the BVPP can be met from within existing Performance Management Unit budgets

Personnel: The production and publication of the BVPP can be met from within existing Performance Management Unit staff resources

Land: Nil

Council Plan/BVPP reference: Nil

Relevant statutory powers: Local Government Act 1999

Background papers: None

Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act Implications: Nil

Key Decision reference (if required): None