

Report to the Cabinet



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Report reference: C/113/2006-07.

Date of Meeting: 19 February 2007.

Portfolio: Finance, Corporate Support Services and Performance Management.

Subject: Best Value Performance Plan 2006/07 – Summary Version.

Officer contact for further information: Steve Tautz (01992 - 564180).

Democratic Services Officer: Gary Woodhall (01992 - 564470).

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That, subject to the concurrence of the Finance and Performance Management Scrutiny Panel, the Council's Summary Best Value Performance Plan for 2007/08 be agreed.

Report:

1. The Local Government Act 1999 and the Best Value regime require the Council to produce an annual performance plan. 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; and

(d) compare the Council's performance 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 draft summary BVPP for 2007/08 is attached at Appendix 1 to this report. The draft summary BVPP was considered by the Finance and Performance Management Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 12 February 2007, and the views of the Scrutiny Panel will be reported to the Cabinet meeting. In order to minimise costs and contain the summary within the Council Tax leaflet, the detail of the draft summary relates primarily to the council's main objectives for the current year and its targets for 2007/08. Fuller detail on specific performance including full year performance against national and local performance indicators will be set out in the full version of the BVPP to be published in June 2007, which will be reported to a future meeting of the Cabinet for consideration.

4. The Cabinet is requested to consider and agree the draft summary BVPP.

Statement in Support of Recommended Action:

5. To enable the publication of summary performance information within the Council Tax

demands to be issued in March 2007, in accordance with best practice identified by the Audit Commission.

Other Options Considered and Rejected:

6. None. In previous years the BVPP Summary had been hand-delivered, but for the last four years production costs have been reduced at the request of members to enable it to be contained within the Council Tax leaflet.

Consultation undertaken:

7. All Heads of Service have contributed to the content of the BVPP Summary. The Finance, Performance Management and Corporate Support Services Portfolio Holder, Management Board and the Finance and Performance Management Scrutiny Panel have agreed the draft BVPP Summary.

Resource implications:

Budget provision: The publication of the BVPP Summary will be met from within existing Performance Management Unit budget.

Personnel: The publication of the BVPP Summary will be met from within existing Performance Management Unit staff resources.

Land: Nil.

Council Plan/BVPP reference: Council Plan Section 8 – ‘How We Measure Our Achievements’.

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.