

**BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN  
(Report by the Head of Policy)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In accordance with arrangements approved by the Council at their last meeting, 7<sup>th</sup> April 2004, the Cabinet is authorised to approve and publish the Council's "Best Value Performance Plan" for 2004 (appended).

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Government's recent guidance recognises that the quality the Council's planning is a key component of our ability to secure continuous improvement and that the Performance Plan should be prepared as part of the Council's general business planning. The guidance maintains the statutory requirement to prepare a Performance Plan, which provides an opportunity for the Council to articulate proposals for improvement in the coming year, including how weaknesses will be addressed, opportunities exploited and better outcomes delivered for local people.
- 2.2 While the Plan is a public document, it is primarily intended for elected Members and employees, the Government and other regulatory bodies.
- 2.3 The Government has revised the content of the Performance Plan and it is no longer necessary to provide information that generally can be obtained from other sources. In addition, the Government has introduced a differentiated approach which links the requirement to publish data to the Council's categorisation under the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA). For this year, as the Council has not yet received their final Assessment, the following information must be published —
- ◆ a brief summary of the Council's strategic objectives and priorities for improvement as contained in the Council's recently adopted Corporate Plan – Growing Success;
  - ◆ arrangements for addressing the Council's improvement priorities, particularly those identified in the CPA or the self-assessment where the CPA has not been reported;
  - ◆ details of outturn performance over the past year and targets for the current year and subsequent two years for all Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs);
  - ◆ a brief statement on contracts stating and certifying that all individual contracts awarded during the past year which

involved a transfer of staff complied, where applicable, with the requirements in the Code of Practice on Workforce Matters in Local Authority Service Contracts.

- 2.4 It is open to the Council to publish additional information as part of the performance plan and it was intended to incorporate information relating to the Code of Corporate Governance. However, in view of the revised format and scope of the document it is now planned to publish this information separately after consideration by Members.
- 2.5 In preparing the Plan provisional information has been presented to both the Overview and Scrutiny Panels who welcomed the approach to be adopted in future years where performance data would be incorporated and published as part of the Council's corporate plan. The Panels endorsed the inclusion of the implementation of the Overview and Scrutiny development programme in the provisional improvement plan and in this respect recommended the Cabinet to identify the Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels as the lead Members to secure achievement of that part of the Improvement Plan. They also recommended the addition of a commentary alongside the BVPIs where performance was below that which was expected. These recommendations have been incorporated into the plan.

### **3. ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUTURE YEARS**

- 3.1 In line with the new guidelines on the production of Performance Plans, it is proposed that for future years performance data will be incorporated and published as part of the Council's corporate plan. BVPI outturn data will be annexed to the Plan and, subject to further Government guidance yet to be issued, summary information will be produced and published.

### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 The Cabinet are recommended to approve and publish the Best Value Performance Plan for 2004 as appended.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Addendum to ODPM Circular 03/2003

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