

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**MONDAY 29 JANUARY 2001 AT 10.00 AM**

**Agenda Item No.**

**12**

**BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN**

*Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy)*

Author:- Anne Fisher (Tel. 01992 588690)

Executive Member:- Alan Searing

**1. Purpose of the report**

This paper presents for approval, at Appendix 1 (to follow), the draft Best Value Performance Plan for 2001-02. A separate paper summarising the outcomes of scrutiny at Select Committees including the Workshop at the Resources, Prosperity Partnership and Consultation Select Committee will be tabled for Cabinet consideration. The proposed programme of Best Value Reviews is contained within the plan and so it is not proposed to report on this separately. Cabinet are asked to consider the draft plan in the light of comments received and submit a final draft to full Council on 16 February for its approval

**2. Summary**

- 2.1. The report outlines the changes made to the version of the Best Value Performance Plan submitted to December Cabinet and notes a small number of areas where late data may be received.

**3. Conclusions**

- 3.1. Members are asked to agree to submit the draft Best Value Performance Plan to County Council for its approval and include a mechanism for handling late amendments as outlined in paragraph 4.3 below

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 This is the second year in which the County Council has to produce a BVPP, which covers all its activities, sets targets for performance, and sets out the Council's priorities for the future as well as being a vehicle for reporting the future Best Value Review programme and the outcomes of reviews.
- 1.2 The plan arranged, by promise, will be the product of a number of processes:
  - 1.2.1 Senior officers work with executive members to assess the viability of a promise (and the wording used), any current or potential service impacts and opportunities.
  - 1.2.2 This process was aligned with the budgetary process to ensure issues would be addressed with details of the resources available to enable targets and priorities to be delivered.
  - 1.2.3 Setting of performance indicators and targets to measure the promises.
  - 1.2.4 The outcomes of public consultation (detailed in report to Cabinet on 18 December)
  - 1.2.5 Responses of Cabinet on 18 December to the draft version presented – specifically in terms of cover and format
  - 1.2.6 Responses of Select Committees

## **2. Best Value Performance Plan 2001-02 Content**

- 2.1. The content of the Best Value Performance Plan has been developed in a number of ways from the version presented to Cabinet on 18 December including
  - Enhanced Performance data including actual performance and comparisons for 1999-2000, targets, variances and estimates for 2000-01, and targets for 2001-02 with commentary to place performance in context
  - Editing of the text to make it more meaningful to the public
  - Further narrative showing actions taken to meet the promises
  - Greater detail on Best Value reviews and outcomes
  - Inclusion of provisional financial data

## **3. Best Value Performance Plan 2001- 02 – responses from Select Committees**

- 3.1. Select Committees in January 2001 have scrutinised the Plan and a note reporting their views will be tabled at the meeting
- 3.2 Select Committees have separately scrutinised the proposed Best Value Review programme. Whilst happy to agree the programme overall, committees wished to make the following comments:
  - The Adult Care Committee, whilst recognising that Voluntary Sector grants fall within the remit of the Resources Select Committee, wished to ensure that Adult Care Officers formed part of the review team and requested that they see the final report

- The Community Information and Protection Committee wished, in the light of a recent spate of fire deaths, to make sure that the Community Safety Review includes the issue of Fire Safety
- There was a general concern that Members should have input into the detailed scope of Best Value Reviews. This opportunity will be provided through scoping workshops which are open to all members and precede the first Member Review Group meeting when the detailed scope is approved.

3.3 Cabinet is asked to consider these responses and any potential changes to the plan

#### 4. **Best Value Performance Plan 2001-02 – further amendments**

4.1. The amended Draft Plan will be dispatched to Members as soon as it is available.

4.2. The Plan has a number of points of detail where further data may be available before printing. This applies to the following

- Best Value Performance Indicators on Public satisfaction, where data from MORI is awaited in early February
- A number of indicators such as the *Percentage of interactions with the public capable of electronic service delivery* where guidance is awaited from the Government as to the definition and so a target is not yet set

4.3. To allow for the eventuality that minor changes or corrections can be added or further information can be added, as indicated above, it is suggested that the Chief Executive be authorised to make such changes in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition.