

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**MONDAY 28 JANUARY 2002 AT 2.00 P.M.**

Agenda Item No.

**3**

**BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN**

Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy)

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Executive Members:- Bernard Lloyd and Robert Ellis

**1. Purpose of the report**

This paper presents for approval, at Appendix 1 the draft Best Value Performance Plan for 2002-03. The paper also summarises the outcomes of the Workshop on 7 January for member consideration. In addition a separate paper will be despatched to members with the latest performance data available from Children Schools and Families. Cabinet are asked to consider the draft plan and supporting data in the light of comments received from the Scrutiny Committees (any recommendations will be circulated separately). Cabinet is requested to then submit a final draft to full Council on 14 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, reports comments from the Workshop consideration of the document and notes a small number of areas where late data may be received.

**3. Conclusion**

- 3.1. Members are asked to agree to submit the Best Value Performance Plan to full 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 third 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 outcomes of the Best Value Reviews.
- 1.2. Following the positive reactions to the arrangement of the plan by promise in 2001-02, the same arrangement is chosen for the 2002-03 plan and it is divided into separate sections dealing with actions to meet the promises and performance data. This section is in landscape format for clarity.
- 1.3. The promises selected for 2002-03 are a contribution of several used in 2001-02 and new ones that reflect emerging priorities
- 1.4. The plan arranged, by promise, is the product of a number of processes
  - 1.4.1. 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.
  - 1.4.2. 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.
  - 1.4.3. Setting of performance indicators and targets to measure the promises.
  - 1.4.4. The outcomes of public consultation (detailed in report to Cabinet on 17 December)
  - 1.4.5. The editing of service contributions.
  - 1.4.6. Response of Scrutiny Committees and Workshop.
- 1.5. The Government's White Paper *Strong Local Leadership - Quality Public Services* proposes changes to the time-scale for publication of the BVPP but we are working to the original time-scale as we await further clarification.
- 1.6. The plan includes details of next year's Best Value Review programme (2002/3) together with summary outcomes of a number of this year's Best Value reviews (2001/2)
- 1.7. The next step in the process is for February County Council to agree the Plan (and the Environment Strategy and Best Value Review Programme as part of this process).

## **2. Best Value Performance Plan 2002-03 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 17 December including
  - Revision in the order of promises
  - Further performance data for targets, variances and estimates for 2001-02; and targets for 2002-03 and commentary to place performance in context
  - Our results and comparisons (based on provisional data) for 2000-2001 have been brought into the main data section

- Performance indicators that are not to be used in 2002-03 have been placed in a separate appendix. (These include proposed deletions to national indicators, discontinued local indicators, and those which are not to be measured in the year 2002-03)
- The editing of service contributions to turn the text into a more readable and concise reference document for the public
- In addition, text has been provided for a number of gaps including responses to District Audit and the promises around youth crime and giving value for money.

### **3. Best Value Performance Plan 2002-03 – Scrutiny Workshop outcomes**

3.1. A Scrutiny Workshop, open to all members, in early January 2002 scrutinised the Plan and made comments which were reported to the Scrutiny Committees.

3.2. Cabinet is asked to consider any potential changes to the plan.

### **4. Best Value Performance Plan 2002-03 – further amendments before publication**

4.1. Performance data continues to be improved. There will be, for example, further commentary to explain performance (particularly in the appendices) and additional measures of new promises

4.2. In some areas further data and information is expected in early Spring. This applies to the following:

- Financial information
- New indicators such as *Energy Consumption* where guidance is awaited from the Government as to the definition or such as the *Increase in the number of disadvantaged people who are employed or are training for employment* where a local indicator is being developed to meet audit requirements.
- Annually collected information, such as *the Percentage of library users who found the book they wanted, or reserved it, and were satisfied with the outcome*, based on information available in February/March.

4.3. To allow for minor changes or corrections and the addition of further information, it is proposed that the Chief Executive be authorised to make such changes in consultation with the three Group Leaders. Any changes made will be highlighted in the text.