

# HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**CABINET**  
**MONDAY 28 APRIL 2003 AT 2.00 P.M.**

Agenda item no.

**4**

## **DRAFT BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN**

Report of Acting Assistant Chief Executive (Performance)

Author:- Judith Sharples (Tel. 01992 588318)

Executive Member:- David Beatty

### **1. Purpose of the report**

To provide a draft version of the main sections of the BVPP 2003-04 for Cabinet approval before referral to the Best Value Performance Plan Topic Group of the Resources Scrutiny Committee for scrutiny on 7 May 2003. A further draft of the full Plan will then be considered by Cabinet on 19 May 2003 and the County Council on 20 May 2003.

To remind Cabinet of the time-scales for producing the BVPP for 2003-04 and the guidance from the ODPM and its implications.

### **2. Conclusion**

The Cabinet is asked to consider whether the wording of promise 8 should be changed.

The Cabinet is also asked to consider whether any changes to the draft text of the BVPP should be made before the Plan is scrutinised by the BVPP Topic Group on 7 May.

### **3. BVPP requirements and implications**

ODPM issued new guidance on the content of BVPPs in March 2003. For the first time it is acknowledged that its principal audiences are likely to be staff and members, organisations with an interest in the activities of the authority, regulatory bodies and central Government rather than members of the public. However, it is stated that the Plan is a public document which should be made available on the authority's website and in libraries.

The main changes to the content of the Plan are as follows:

- for the first time the plan will need to include outturn data rather than estimates
- targets have to be set for 3 years rather than just one
- CPA scores must be included

- progress over the last 3 years in implementing improvement measures and the outcomes of these improvement measures must be reported
- improvement plans for the next 3 years based on the CPA corporate assessment, best value reviews and other inspection programmes must be detailed
- authorities must certify that they comply with the Code of Practice on Workforce Matters in Local Authority Service Contracts in relation to staff transfers.

The draft contents list for the BVPP 2003/4 takes account of these new requirements.

#### **4. Timetable and process for finalising the BVPP**

The Plan must be published by 30 June 2003. The Cabinet agreed the promises that will form the basis of the 2003/4 Plan at its meeting on 16 December 2002. Tackling crime and disorder was identified as one of the public's top priorities in consultation carried out in the autumn 2002 and extra resources have been allocated in the 2003/4 budget to tackle crime and create safer communities. At present, the only promise dealing with crime specifically refers to youth crime. The Cabinet may wish to consider amending this promise so that it covers measures to tackle crime more generally.

The BVPP topic group scrutinised the promises agreed by Cabinet and the proposed performance indicators for each promise at its meeting on 4 March 2003.

The draft sections of the BVPP attached as an appendix to this report will form the basis of a report that will be scrutinised by the BVPP Topic Group on 7 May. The following draft sections of the Plan are included in the appendix to this report:

- contents list for the BVPP
- our promises to Hertfordshire for the year ahead
- statement of how our budget is spent
- statement of strategic objectives, recent achievements and actions we plan to take in 2003/4 in relation to each promise
- our improvement plans for the next three years and progress in delivering improvements in the last three years
- performance data and targets in relation to each promise – it should be noted that 2002/3 outturn data in relation to many performance indicators is not yet available and it has therefore not been possible to set targets for future years. Any additional data available by 2 May will be included in the Topic Group report.

Following scrutiny of the above sections of the Plan by the Topic Group on 7 May, a further draft of the BVPP will be considered by Cabinet on 19 May and by the full Council on 20 May.

As last year, changes to the Plan after 20 May may be made by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Group Leaders. The Plan will then be published by 30 June.