

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 23 JANUARY 2002 at 10.30 a.m.**

Agenda item no:

2(a)

BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2002-03

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive, Strategy - Anne Fisher

Author: - Geoff Brown, Strategic Planner
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Executive Members: - Robert Ellis, Bernard Lloyd and Robert Gordon

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 Cabinet on 17 December 2001 approved a draft Best Value Performance Plan for 2002-03. This is now submitted (Appendix - attached for members of the Scrutiny Committee) to all Scrutiny Committees for comments which will be considered by Cabinet on 28 January 2002.

1.2 The whole plan will be the subject of an open workshop on 7 January 2002 at 2.00pm to which **all Members** have been invited. Comments from the workshop will then be reported to Scrutiny Committees.

1.3 The following promise sections are within this Scrutiny Committee's remit in Section A. Performance data relating to these promises can be found in Section B Appendix "Data as at 6th Dec 01".

- Section A Page 25, Section B Pages 10-14 improve educational outcomes, as measured by Key Stage results
- Section A Pages 26-27, Section B Page 14 assist schools with the lowest current levels of performance to make accelerated progress
- Section A Pages 28-30, Section B Page 14 help people to continue learning throughout their lives
- Section A Page 31, Indicators being developed; ensure that all children benefit from the diversity of schools within Hertfordshire
- Section A Pages 32-33, Section B Page 14 enable parents and carers to understand and support their children's learning
- Section A Pages 34-35, Section B Page 15 ensure children at risk of harm are identified early and given support so they make maximum progress

- Section A Pages 36-37, Indicators being developed; enhance provision for gifted and talented pupils both in school and through experiences which complement their work at school

1.4 The Cabinet will submit a final draft to full Council on 14 February 2002.

2. Summary

2.1 This is the third year in which the County Council has to produce a Best Value Performance Plan, 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.

2.2 The key approach within the plan is to show links between a promise, the actions taken to achieve the promise and how success is to be measured. All nationally set (and proposed) performance indicators have been linked to the promises. As for 2001-02, the Plan is arranged by promise.

2.3 There are a number of 'gaps' in the plan. Some information will not be available until late January and some not until early March. In addition work is continuing in a number of areas including target setting for next year, budgetary information and good news stories (which are in the main shown as headlines only).

A number of gaps also exist in the wording of information relating to promises or where local indicators are being investigated. In all cases, work is being undertaken to complete these sections. The relevant gaps exist in Section A at:

- page 21 – further text relating to reducing youth crime

and in Section B Appendix "Data as at 6th Dec 01" at:

- Page 14 – further local indicators relating to enabling parents and carers to understand are being developed
In addition, local indicators for the Promises; to ensure that all children benefit from the diversity of schools; to enhance provision for gifted and talented pupils are also being developed

2.4 The final version of the Plan will contain data to show how HCC compares with other Shire Counties. At present the comparative data is provisional and is shown as an Appendix in Section B.

Conclusion

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the Best Value Performance Plan 2002-03 and submit comments to Cabinet on 28 January 2002.

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CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 23 JANUARY 2002 AT 10.30AM

**BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2002-03
SCRUTINY WORKSHOP - 7 JANUARY 2002:COMMENTS**

Review of performance 2001/2002

(PI Ref. and Promise number in bold)

B1 - Question when 'value-added' data would be available.

Outline of Promises 2002/2003

10 - Noted that the educational achievement and participation of 16-19 year olds would be included in Key Stage Five results.

10 - Comment was made that the new promise wording represented a move from a broader measure of "achievement" to the narrower measures of Key Stage Results.