

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**RESOURCES, PROSPERITY, PARTNERSHIP AND
CONSULTATION SELECT COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2001 AT 10.30 AM**

Agenda Item No.

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BEST VALUE REVIEW OF VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUNDING PROCESSES

Report of Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy)

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Executive Member: David Beatty

1. Purpose of report

To present the report of the Best Value Review and its associated implementation plan following consideration of the report by the Cabinet and the Executive Committee on 17 September 2001. The report was also considered by the Adult Care Services Select Committee on 4 October 2001 (attached as Appendix A).

2. Summary

The Best Value Review of Voluntary Sector Funding Processes has concluded its work by producing a set of recommendations and a detailed implementation plan (attached as Appendix B)

In considering the attached report the Executive Committee:-

'Noted that the outcome of the Review would be discussed at the Resources, Prosperity, Partnership and Consultation Select Committee; and Adult Care Services Select Committee in the autumn. The Chairman undertook that any comments made by those Select Committees would be reported to Cabinet for consideration'

'Subject to that proviso the following proposal from the Cabinet on 17 September was AGREED:-

'That the BVR be implemented'

The Executive committee asked that an executive summary be written and incorporated in the reporting process (attached as Appendix C).

3. Comments of Adult Care Services Select Committee

Four points were covered. These are set out in turn, with a brief response on each:-

- i) Concern that the funding strategy was reliant on achieving external funding targets and that the Review would lead to reduced discretionary funding overall. *The review does not recommend a reduction in the aggregate level of support. It does challenge the council to analyse its funding allocations. The implementation plan will deliver some movement of funds from the 'charmed circle' to other organisations responding to the needs of the council and its communities. The plan aims to assist voluntary organisations to tap into other sources of funding.*
- ii) Concern that overall external funding targets were unrealistic. *These targets have been thought through and reflect the views of our officers working in the area of external funding. Targets are purposefully stretching us to achieve and may need to be revisited.*
- iii) Assurance was sought that organisations would not automatically lose their funding from HCC at the end of the 3-5 year funding period. *The precise wording of recommendation and associated targets needs to be revisited. There is no question of blanket withdrawal of funding at the end of negotiated funding periods.*
- iv) Assurance was sought that data on organisations appearing on our systems would be appropriately protected. *That assurance is given. Legislation will be applied.*

4. Conclusions

Members are invited to comment to the Cabinet on the proposals set in the attached report on the voluntary sector funding processes Best Value Review, to be forwarded together with the comments of the ACS Select Committee in paragraph 3.above.

