

BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN SCRUTINY

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy)

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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To submit the latest version of the 'BVPP traffic-light' report for member scrutiny as requested at the meeting of Group Spokesmen on May 22nd and to report on progress concerning publication of the out-turn BVPP data.
- 1.2. To propose the setting up of a topic group to scrutinise the Best Value Performance Plan.

2. Summary

- 2.1. In March 2002 the County Council produced its third annual 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. In late June 2002 the Council will publish the final performance indicator data for the 2002-03 Plan.
- 2.2. As approved at February County Council, changes to the data will be agreed by the Chief Executive in consultation with the 3 Group Leaders.
- 2.3. The time-scale meets the Government's revised publication date for Best Value Performance Plans of 30th June. The information will then be available on the HertsDirect website and will also be sent to members of this Committee.
- 2.4. 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. The Resources, Prosperity Partnership and Consultation committee has overall responsibility for the scrutiny of the plan and monitoring performance against the promise measures.

- 2.5. The monitor provided gives the latest position for performance of key measures (against last year's promises) and, where available, reports the out-turn figure.
- 2.6. In addition to overall performance scrutiny this Committee has agreed to explore best practice in Best Value Performance Plans. It is proposed that the Committee gives this task to a topic group and that the group's role is primarily to scrutinise next year's draft BVPP.
- 2.7. As a reminder, the Committee has also chosen to examine the Promises within its specific remit in the following order:

Meeting Date	Promise
18/06/2002	"Work with business to increase prosperity, protect jobs and improve standards of living for local people"
31/10/2002	"Improve employment prospects for disadvantaged people"
23/01/2003	"Give the public value for money by getting more cost efficient every year"
20/03/2003	"Give local communities a better voice to tackle local problems"

3. The BVPP traffic-light monitor

- 3.1. The monitor is arranged by promise and, for each promise, key indicators from the national and /or local sets are used to assess whether it has been met.
- 3.2. The monitor provided gives the latest position for performance of key measures against last year's promises and, where available, reports the out-turn figure. (Please note that some results will not have been finalised by the date of the Committee) The information included in the monitor will be part of the information published on the website as June actuals. In addition the website will include an updated section B of the BVPP which will also be sent to members of this Committee when all the data is available.
- 3.3. The monitor attached shows performance against promises for 2001-02. For each indicator the result is coded as
- *Missed or expected to miss target by at least 5%*
 - *Under performed or expected to under perform against target by up to 5%*
 - *Expected to meet or exceed target*
 - *Data incomplete/missing or being explored further*
- 3.4. It is important to review these results in the context of the information provided in the comments on performance column. As an example the *Percentage of the total tonnage of household waste arisings which have been recycled* is shown as a missed target. This is the result of a change in government guidance around measurement rather than under performance.

3.5. In addition the results show HCC performance against target rather than compared with other authorities or previous years (comparative data will be available in the autumn). A missed target may still be good performance relative to others or vice versa.

4. Topic Group

4.1. It is proposed that a topic group be given the role of scrutinising the draft BVPP for 2003-04 and that this group would also have the task of exploring best practice in Best Value Performance Plans as agreed at the last meeting.

4.2. The group could also begin to determine how best to provide information for scrutiny of this year's plan data especially for the key measures.

4.3. It may be more valuable for members to access key indicators from an on-line performance database. This would have a number of potential advantages, e.g. speed of receiving results, and the option for members to explore particular areas of interest.

4.4. Currently a promise monitor is available on a quarterly basis for the second, third (estimated results) and fourth quarter (actual results). The first quarter performance is seen as too early for effective scrutiny.

4.5. Proposed timetable

Autumn 2002	Exploring best practice in BVPPs (using 2002-03 Plans)
	Provision of information for scrutiny
Spring 2003	Scrutiny of draft BVPP for 2003-04