

BEST VALUE REVIEW OF PLANNING AND TRANSPORT POLICY

Report to MRG – 27 January 2003

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Proposal for Organisational raids

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To advise the Panel on proposed information gathering visits in connection with the Best Value Review

2. Information

- 2.1 The top 5 comparable counties by selected indicators include:

Surrey
Hampshire
Essex
Kent
Oxon

- 2.2 Surrey and Essex are currently undertaking similar Best Value Reviews. Kent undertook a BVR, which included Strategic Plans, in 2001-2.
- 2.3 Hampshire and Kent are both rated “excellent” under CPA. Essex and Surrey were rated “good”, Oxon “fair”
- 2.4 It is therefore recommended that **Hampshire, Kent and Surrey** are visited, but with close contact with Essex also being maintained.
- 2.5 The emphasis of “raids” would be to focus on eliciting information relevant to the hypotheses testing but also take opportunity for comparison on other elements of the service, if time.
- 2.6 Dates for these visits are currently being organised and the Reference Group will be updated on progress at the meeting.
- 2.7 At the last MRG Members expressed an interest in gathering further data from Suffolk regarding County Council development control responsibilities. It is therefore recommended that an officer from Suffolk be invited to attend the next MRG meeting.