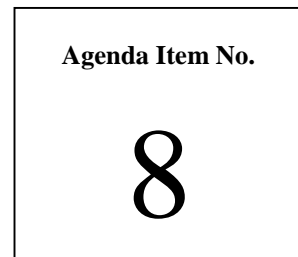


HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

THURSDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2001 AT 10.30 AM



BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN

Report of the Chief Executive considered by Cabinet on 29 January 2001

Executive Member:- Alan Searing

This paper presents for approval, the attached draft Best Value Performance Plan for 2001-02, which includes the proposed Programme and Best Value revisions for the forthcoming year.

1. The Plan

This is the second year in which the County Council has had to produce a BVPP, 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 the future Best Value Review programme and the outcomes of reviews.

The plan arranged, by promise, is the product of a number of processes:

- Senior officers working with Executive Members to assess the viability of each promise and current or potential service impacts and opportunities.
- The alignment with the budgetary process to ensure that resources are available to ensure that targets are met and priorities are delivered.
- The setting of performance indicators and targets to measure the promises.
- The outcomes of public consultation.
- The responses of Cabinet in December on the first draft version.
- The responses of Select Committees. The Select Committees in January each scrutinised the draft plan and made comments thereon which the Cabinet have taken into account in producing the final draft.

2. Changes made since December Cabinet Version

This version of the plan has a number of additions and changes from the version referred by Cabinet to Select Committees for scrutiny:-

2.1 Text Changes

- List of contents - more comprehensive
- Message from Leader of the Council -
- Actions and response to District Audit statutory recommendations
- New section on how to use the performance plan and using the performance data

- Text and indicators for the Promise to *support the building of affordable quality housing to meet the needs of local people*
- Indicators for the Promise *assist schools with the lowest current levels of pupil attainment to make accelerated progress*
- Further text for the Promise *fight for the interests of elderly and disabled people and ensure they have access to our services so that they can maintain their independence*
- Indicators for the Promise *work with the NHS, voluntary organisations and other councils to improve health and care services*
- Further text for the Promise *improve employment prospects for disadvantaged people*
- Further test for the Promise *Give local communities a better voice*
- Further text for the Promise *Provide quality advice and information services*
- Further text on Best Value reviews including costs and savings
- Further text on the services provided by Herts County Council
- Detailed provisional financial information
- List of other plans added
- Three appendices detailing 1999/00 performance data, local Government Act 1999 requirements and family groups of Council areas for comparison

2.2 Changes to Performance Indicators now giving:-

- actual and comparative information for 1999-2000
- estimates and variance to target for 2000-2001
- targets for 2001-2002

3. Process for Further Amendments to the Plan

There remain a number of points of detail where further data may become available before printing, in particular:-

- Best Value Performance Indicators on Public satisfaction, where data from MORI is awaited.
- A number of other indicators where guidance is awaited from the Government.

To allow for the opportunity for these changes to be incorporated in the final version, it is proposed that the Chief Executive be authorised to make such changes, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition.

CABINET PROPOSALS FOR COUNTY COUNCIL APPROVAL

1. That the Best Value Performance Plan 2001-2002, including the Best Value Review Programme, be approved.
2. That the Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition, to make such further changes as become necessary, prior to the printing of the final version.