

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE RESOURCES, PROSPERITY, PARTNERSHIP & CONSULTATION SELECT COMMITTEE 1 NOVEMBER 2001

NOTE: A copy of the report mentioned below has been sent to all members of the Council. Any queries on this report to: Sally-Ann Cole, Room 202, County Hall, Hertford. (Tel: 01992 555228)

BEST VALUE AUDIT REPORT BVPP 2001/02

1. Background

Each year the County Council has to produce a Best Value Performance Plan (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 outcomes of the Best Value Reviews.

The Plan is audited by District Audit (DA) and a report and action plan is produced to inform Members and chief officers of the key issues which arose and the actions which are required.

2. Information

The DA's report and action plan relating to the BVPP for 2001/2002 was considered by the Cabinet and Executive Committee on 23 July 2001, where it was noted that the detailed recommendations made therein were being acted upon.

The main findings in the DA's report were:-

- The Council is used to a culture of continuous service improvement and sees the BV process as forming an integral part of service planning. It forms strong links with external agencies to assist in the review process and members are actively engaged.
- Completed BV reviews appear to demonstrate comprehensive coverage and a robust approach to challenge.

- There is a clear process of review and monitoring of progress in order to secure service improvement. The process could be strengthened through a more rigorous quality assurance approach to performance indicators, which can ensure a robust approach to evidencing.
- Whilst the Council generally has a history of strong service performance, there are inevitably services which are weaker by comparison. The Council needs to ensure that its review programme identifies these services as priorities for its review programme.

The full Action Plan is attached as Appendix A.

The Executive Committee asked the Resources, Prosperity, Partnership and Consultation Select Committee to examine the report and its findings, which they duly did at their meeting on 1 November. Following consideration, they had no comments to make upon it.

Alan Searing
Chairman
County Hall
Hertford
7 November 2001