

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET
MONDAY 10 MAY 2004 AT 2.00 P.M.

COUNTY COUNCIL
TUESDAY 18 MAY 2004 AT 10.30 A.M.
(please retain for County Council meeting)

Agenda item no.

Cabinet

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County Council

12

BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2004/2005

Report of the Chief Executive

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Executive Member: David Beatty

1. Purpose of the report

To provide a draft version of the BVPP 2004/05 (**to follow**) for Cabinet approval along with recommendations from the BVPP Cabinet Panel meeting of 7 May 2004 which will be reported separately. The Cabinet proposals will be reported to County Council on 18 May 2004.

To remind Cabinet of the time-scales for producing the BVPP for 2004/05 and the guidance from the ODPM and its implications.

2. Conclusion

Cabinet is asked to consider the promises for 2004/05, including the proposed change to the wording of promise 12, in the light of the recommendations of the BVPP Cabinet Panel, and make an appropriate proposal to County Council.

3. Guidance on Best Value Performance Plans

Guidance for the 2004/05 Plan was issued by the ODPM 17 Feb 2004.

Some relevant points:

- The end of June deadline for publication remains.
- The audience is primarily the Authority itself.

- The focus should be on articulating proposals for improvement for the coming year.
- Summary performance information is to be prepared/published by the end of March this year – which we have done through the Herts Direct newspaper.
- A copy of the BVPP should be made available to members of the public who request it

4. Structure and content

Following approval the BVPP will be published on our website at the end of June, linking key documents and elements. Printable pages together form a 'loose-leaf' BVPP document. The change in guidance and emphasis on the Plan being internally focussed has provided us with an opportunity to produce a simplified Plan providing signposts to further information.

The Plan is very forward looking, and so the emphasis is put on the promises for the forthcoming year with the summary content around them having been developed through the BVPP Cabinet Panel. Corporate Communications are developing a strategy for communicating the promises to the public.

The improvement plan is also at the heart of the Plan, and it is proposed that this is updated to provide the latest possible position for the publication date of 30th June.

5. Timetable and process for finalising the BVPP

The Plan must be published by 30 June 2004. The Cabinet considered the draft promises that will form the basis of the 2004/5 Plan at its meeting on 15 March and are now asked to agree them.

Promise12 had been agreed by Cabinet to include "help children develop their skills and talents". The Executive Member for Education and the Director of CSF have requested that this element of the promise is incorporated under Promise 8, "strive to improve educational achievement throughout the county", where it fits better, and that Promise 12 will now be "ensure that Hertfordshire has a range of specialist schools".

The BVPP Cabinet Panel has developed the promises and recommended the more focussed performance indicators to measure each promise at its meetings from December 2003 to May 2004.

The best estimates of end of year data are included where the final data itself is not yet available. The data required for national PIs will be audited by our internal audit section prior to publication and then submitted to the audit commission.

As last year, it is proposed that changes to the Plan required after 18 May be made by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Group Leaders. The Plan will then be published by 30 June.