

SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 22ND JUNE 2005

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ANNUAL PLAN (BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN) 2005/06

Introduction

1. This report presents the draft Annual Plan of the Council. In recent years the Council has produced an annual Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP). It is proposed to replace this in 2005/06 with an Annual Plan which would meet the continuing requirement to produce a BVPP.

Background

2. There is still a statutory requirement to produce a BVPP but guidance from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) now provides more freedom in what is included in this document, and the ability to meet the requirement by producing an “Annual Corporate Plan”.
3. The current guidance from ODPM also states that:-
 - “It is important that the Plan does not become an end in its own right”
 - “the primary audience for the Plan should be the Authority itself... authorities should not view the public as primary recipients of these Plans”

Current Position

4. It is proposed to use the flexibility provided by the ODPM guidance to produce a shorter document that is focussed on the Council’s major priorities for 2005/06. In this form the Plan would effectively be a high level summary of departmental service plans and, hopefully, a more useful document for staff and Members. It is also proposed to re-title it as the Council’s Annual Plan to signify this change of focus.
5. The attached draft has been based around the Council's corporate priorities in the Medium Term Corporate Strategy. However, the amount of detailed information in it has been significantly reduced. In this form it provides a clearer link than previously between the

Council's Medium Term Corporate Strategy and the more detailed departmental service plans.

6. It is proposed to produce the Plan in two parts as attached.

Part One is a summary of the major issues identified in departmental service plans for 2005/06 as they relate to the Council's current Medium Term Corporate Strategy. In the final published version of the Plan it is intended to break this text up with illustrations that would make it more attractive, whilst at the same time trying to keep it to a manageable size overall.

7. **Part Two** consists of all the Performance Indicator and target information which we are still obliged to publish in full. Information on our actual performance in 2004/05 and targets for future years is not yet available for one of the performance indicators (BV12 relating to sickness absence). It is intended to insert this information in the final version of the Plan before it is published at the end of June.

Timetable

8. The final draft of the Plan will be considered by Cabinet on 4th July 2005. Any comments from the Scrutiny Commission on the form or content of the draft will be reported to Cabinet at that meeting. The Plan will then be published, subject to adoption by the Council on 13th July 2005.

Recommendation

9. The Scrutiny Commission is requested to consider the attached draft of the Annual Plan and make any suggestions for changes to be considered by Cabinet.

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