

EXTRACT FROM DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, HELD 11 APRIL 2002:

BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN

The Committee considered a report on the Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) 2002/2003. A copy of the report and draft BVPP is filed with these minutes.

The Committee discussed various aspects of the BVPP. The following points and comments were made:

(i) Improving Our Transport System (Chapter 7)

- Officers stated that it was to be hoped that the target for increasing cycling/walking to school could be met, and raised in future. However, it was a matter for individual schools to determine the extent of cycle training provided for pupils. Thus the target given, of 60%, was a realistic one.
- It was noted that rail issues were tied up with the re-franchising of routes, and that the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) had engaged in preliminary discussions about support for Ivanhoe Stage 1. Members requested a further report on the issues relating to progress on rail provision throughout the County.
- It was noted that the County Council's investment in road improvements and traffic calming measures would, in association with other agencies, work towards achieving the targeted reduction in casualties. The Committee was advised that the figures quoted were estimates, and that the actual figures should be available for inclusion in the BVPP in time for publication.
- Members suggested that the issue of concessionary travel be re-examined by the Committee after the revised scheme had been in operation for a year. The Committee intended to look at rural transport issues in the County in the near future.

(ii) Caring for Our Environment (Chapter 8)

- The Committee was pleased to note the success of the Shire Grants scheme, which had received overwhelming response and support from people in Leicestershire. It was important to ensure that appropriate resources for Shire Grants were available to assist and process applications.

- It was considered that it would be very worthwhile for the Committee to undertake some monitoring of Shire Grants. The Acting Director was asked that a report be brought to a future meeting to provide background and context for site visits by members.
- Members considered that the importance of Local Agenda 21 should be acknowledged; it applied to all areas of the County Council's work and was the most important environmental initiative of recent years.

(iii) Managing Waste Effectively (Chapter 12)

- The Committee considered that whilst District and Borough Councils were responsible for the introduction of waste recycling schemes, the County Council also had a major role in encouraging and promoting these; as well as providing outlets for recycled material. Recycling facilities at some amenity sites were also an important part of the services. Members stated the importance of communicating to Leicestershire residents the need for a reduction in landfill waste.
- It was noted that increased use of recycling and composting would not be sufficient to reach the Government targets on reducing use of landfill, necessitating urgent development of alternatives to landfill.
- The Committee would investigate issues surrounding incineration (as part of the Joint Household Waste Management Strategy consultation).
- Concern was expressed that recycling facilities in urban areas be refurbished and replaced as necessary, and the Committee requested a report on the progress of such developments as part of the Joint Household Waste Management Strategy development.
- Members stated that it was important for the County Council to take a lead on the management of waste, which was emerging as a major issue for the future.

RESOLVED:-

- That the Best Value Performance Plan be noted;
- That the Acting Director of Planning and Transportation be requested to bring reports to a future meeting of the Committee on the following matters:
 - Current status and progress on rail issues in the County;
 - The Shire Grants scheme - to provide background and context prior to site visits by the Committee;
 - Consultation on the Joint Household Waste Management Strategy.