

CABINET – 29TH JUNE 2004

BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2004/05

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND
DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES**

PART A

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present Cabinet with the draft Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) for their consideration before it is forwarded to Council for final approval.

Recommendations

2. The Cabinet is requested to :-
 - i) consider the draft BVPP and;
 - ii) consider and agree a response to any comments received from the Scrutiny Commission;
 - iii) subject to any further amendments, approve the draft BVPP for submission to the Council;
 - iv) authorise the Chief Executive to make any further minor amendments required to the BVPP before publication.

Reason for Recommendations

3. As a major summary of the Council's plans and objectives the BVPP has to be agreed by the Council. The comments of the Scrutiny Commission will be reported to the Cabinet at this meeting. It will be necessary to make further minor changes to the information in the BVPP to include more up to date performance information.

Timetable for Decisions including Scrutiny

4. The draft BVPP has been circulated to all Council Members and will be considered at the meeting of the Scrutiny Commission on 23rd June 2004. Any comments they have will be reported for consideration at this meeting of Cabinet.
5. In order to meet the statutory publication date it will be necessary to publish the BVPP by 30th June, subject to final Council approval.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

6. The Council is required by Government to produce an annual Best Value Performance Plan by 30th June each year. The attached Plan is aimed at meeting this requirement, and is based on the Council's objectives set out in the Medium Term Corporate Strategy and other detailed plans and policies of the Council.

Circulation under Sensitive Issues Procedure

7. None.

Officer to Contact

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PART B

Background

8. The Council is required to publish a Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) by 30th June each year. The minimum contents of the Plan are specified by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and the final Plan is audited by the Audit Commission to ensure it complies with legislation.
9. This is the fifth BVPP that the Council has produced. In March 2004 the ODPM issued a Circular (02/2004) which further amended the requirements for the contents of the Plan in the light of experience to date and the continuation of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) process. As a "Good" authority under the CPA Leicestershire is now only required to produce information on its past performance on Best Value Performance Indicators and its targets on these Indicators for the next three years. We have the discretion to add any further contextual information that makes these figures more meaningful. The requirement to apply Best Value principles to the delivery of services still applies.
10. The ODPM Circular also states that the principal audience of the BVPP should now be the Members and officers of the authority, although it should still be treated as a public document and made available to anyone requesting it. It is still intended, as previously, to put the final version on the Council's website and to make a limited number of hard copies available in libraries and service shops etc.

Current Position

11. The attached draft BVPP has been constructed on a similar basis to last year's, i.e. based around the Council's corporate priorities in the Medium Term Corporate Strategy. The amount of information in it has not been significantly reduced on the basis that it is a useful way of summarising the major elements of the Council's progress to date and its plans for the future. In effect it is now largely a summary of the individual service plans produced by Departments.
12. As usual there is some information relating to our actual performance in 2003/04 against some of the Performance Indicators which is not yet available. It is intended to insert this information in the final version of the BVPP before it is published at the end of June. For that reason Members are asked to give the Chief Executive authority to make further minor changes to the current draft BVPP to enable this to happen.

