

Report to: **Audit Scrutiny Committee**
Date: **23rd January 2006**
Report of: **Assistant Chief Executive**
Subject: **Auditors report on the Best Value Performance Plan**
Ward: **All**

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To present the Audit Commission's report on the Council's 2005/2006 Best Value Performance Plan.

2.0 Consultation

This report has been presented to Management Team for information.

3.0 Background

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1999, the Council has a duty to prepare and publish an annual best value performance plan. The content, timing and scope of the Plan is prescribed within a guidance document from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, although the requirements are reduced for Authorities, such as ourselves, who are classed as "excellent".

As an excellent Authority, we are required to include:

- a) Details of performance, both outturn and targets for the subsequent 2 years
- b) A brief statement on any contracts awarded during the year of the plan which involved a staff transfer

We produced our second Corporate and Performance Plan last year, combining the Corporate Plan with the Best Value Performance Plan. This document therefore contains both the statutory performance information from the last year (2004/2005), along with the targets for the next 2 years, as required for the Best Value Performance Plan and the Corporate Plan information relating to our intentions and performance in line with the nine priority areas, focussing on the main elements of the outcomes of the Priority Delivery Plan (PDP).

4.0 Auditors Report on the Best Value Performance Plan

- 4.1 We have now received the Audit Commission's letter and report on this year's Best Value Performance Plan, these are attached as Appendix 1 to this report. The report concludes that our Corporate and Performance Plan for 2005-2006 complies in all respects with the relevant legislation and statutory guidance.
- 4.2 The Audit Commission will produce a further report detailing their findings following their audit of specific Best Value Performance Indicators for 2004-5. Once received, a further report will be presented to this committee

5.0 Future Corporate and Performance Plans

It is intended to review the format of the Corporate and Performance Plan this year to make it more concise and to incorporate outcome measures within the priority areas. The work around this will involve consultation with appropriate Officers and recommendations for improvements will be reported to Members. Any changes to the Plan will naturally be made in line with ensuring compliance with the statutory obligations as mentioned above

6.0 Implications

6.1 Financial Implications

This report has no financial implications

6.2 Legal Implications

This report has no direct legal implications

6.3 Policy Implications

This report has no direct policy implications

6.4 Risk Implications

A risk assessment has been carried out.

7.0 Communications

This report has no direct communications implications

8.0 Corporate Implications

8.1 Corporate Plan and Priorities

This report confirms that the Corporate and Performance Plan complies with the statutory obligations in relation to content and publication.

8.2 Sustainability

There are no sustainability implications.

8.3 Expenditure related to 'well-being' powers

There are no direct well being implications.

8.4 Human Resource Implications

There are no HR implications.

8.5 Information Technology

There are no I.T. implications.

8.6 Equality and Diversity

There are no direct Equality and Diversity implications.

8.7 Crime and Disorder

There are no direct crime and disorder implications.

8.8 Human Rights

There are no human rights implications.

8.9 Social Inclusion

There are no direct social inclusion implications.

9.0 Procurement

There are no specific procurement issues.

10.0 Conclusion

- 10.1 This report confirms that this years Corporate and Performance Plan complies with the relevant legislation and statutory guidance in relation to its content and publication, and is presented to Members for information.

Background Papers

Corporate and Best Value Performance Plan 2005/6

Auditor's letter and report on the Best value Performance Plan

ODPM Circular 03/2003 – Guidance on Best Value Performance Plans