

COMMITTEE:	CABINET
DATE:	10 APRIL 2002
SUBJECT:	BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2002/03
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT
Ward(s):	All
Purpose:	To agree arrangements for the approval of the Best Value Performance Plan
Contact:	Nick Ritson, Strategic Development Officer, Telephone 01323 415418 or internally on extension 5418.
Recommendation:	That the Council be asked to agree that the Best Value Performance Plan for 2002/03 be first submitted to the Cabinet on 29 May 2002 and that authority to agree the Plan's final text be delegated to the Chief Executive following consultation with Group Leaders.

1.0	<u>Introduction</u>
1.1	The Council is now required by Government to publish the annual Best Value Performance Plan by 30 June.

1.2	This date shift (from 31 March) means that, unlike past years where estimates of performance were included, this year's <u>actual</u> performance must be provided within the plan as well as the performance targets for 2002-3. These performance figures cannot be compiled until after the end of the financial year and must be evidenced by supporting papers that are subsequently submitted to the Council's auditors.
1.3	A summary of the plan still has to be published by 31 March. The Council has complied with this requirement by including performance information in the Council Tax leaflet which was sent out with Council Tax bills.
2.0	<u>Approval of Final Text of Plan</u>
2.1	The Council's Best Value Performance Plan forms a part of the Council's Policy Framework. Under the Local Government Act 2000 and associated government directions its approval cannot be a matter for the Cabinet alone. Under the Council's new Constitution (to be fully effective from the start of the new Council year in May 2002) the Best Value Performance Plan will require the approval of the full Council in addition to Cabinet consideration. It will not be possible for Council to delegate responsibility to the Cabinet.
2.2	The last full Council meeting prior to the Best Value Performance Plan publication date on 30 June is on 24 April. It will not be possible to have the Plan drafted and ready for approval by this date.
2.3	It is proposed that Cabinet receive an early draft of the Plan at their meeting on 29 May for consideration and comment. (The next Cabinet after that date is on 1 July - too late for the 30 June publication deadline). The Chief Executive will then settle the final text of the Plan following consultation with the Group Leaders.
2.4	Council at their meeting on 24 April will be asked to formally delegate authority to the Chief Executive to allow the foregoing arrangements to be followed.
3.0	<u>Implications</u>

3.1	There are no relevant implications arising from this report which simply deals with the procedures for securing the approval of the Best Value Performance Plan.
4.0	<u>Conclusion</u>
4.1	The Local Government White Paper has changed the requirements for the Best Value Performance Plan in terms of content and publication dates. In order to meet these requirements The Council is requested to agree that the performance plan is presented to Cabinet 29 May 2002 and that authority for agreeing the final content of the plan is delegated to the Chief Executive following consultation with the Group Leaders.
Nick Ritson Strategic Development Officer	
Background Papers: None.	
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