

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	23 June 2005
Subject:	Best Value Performance Plan 2005/06
Responsible Officer:	Paul Najsarek, Director of Organisational Performance
Contact Officer:	Paul Najsarek, Director of Organisational Performance
Portfolio Holder:	Deputy Leader, Business Connections and Performance
Key Decision:	Yes
Status:	Part I

## **Section 1: Summary**

### **Decision Required**

To approve the performance information and additional wording now submitted, for publication by 30 June in completion of the council's Best Value Performance Plan 2005/06.

### **Reason for report**

This report follows up that to Cabinet on 14 April 2005 on the Corporate Plan 2005/06 and sets out the additional material required in order to achieve publication of the Best Value Performance Plan.

### **Benefits**

This approach builds on the Corporate Plan already published and achieves publication of the Best Value Performance Plan by issuing a supplement containing the necessary information. This is more economical of time and expense than publishing a separate document and avoids duplication.

## **Cost of Proposals**

The costs associated with this project are officer time in preparing the information and publication costs, which will be met from existing budgets.

## **Risks**

Failure to publish the relevant information by 30 June may cause auditors and other regulators to conclude that the council has not effectively published its Best Value Performance Plan by the statutory deadline.

## **Implications if recommendations rejected**

Failure by the council to publish a compliant Best Value Performance Plan by the statutory deadline would attract an adverse report from auditors, influencing the council's CPA judgement and profile with regulators.

## **Section 2: Report**

### **2.1 Brief History**

Cabinet on 14 April 2005 agreed and council on 29 April 2005 endorsed that this year's Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) would comprise the new Corporate Plan, supplemented by the additional material necessary to fulfil Best Value requirements. The latter was to be approved by Cabinet at this meeting. Overview and Scrutiny Committee were also consulted on the draft Corporate Plan.

The council's auditors have since confirmed that, rather than reprinting all or part of the contents of the Corporate Plan with the supplementary information, it will be sufficient if the Corporate Plan is suitably endorsed on the cover and the extra material is distributed to relevant points separately, as soon as available and in any case by 30 June. This is the statutory publication deadline for the BVPP. Arrangements have been made accordingly.

The two items that are required to complete the mandatory elements of a BVPP are

- A schedule of actual performance outturns for 2004/05 and three years of forward targets for Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs)
- A Statement on Contracts

Appendix 1 sets out this information. A quality assurance check is currently being made on selected BVPIs prior to publication and subsequent external audit. Members will be advised of any changes within the data that this necessitates.

## 2.2 Options considered

Not applicable.

## 2.3 Consultation

The Corporate Plan has been informed by the council's budget consultation process; the Community Strategy, which was the subject of significant consultations; and the views of regulators.

## 2.4 Financial Implications

This report is not seeking additional financial resources. The costs associated with staff time and publication will be met from existing budgets.

## 2.5 Legal Implications

The Best Value Performance Plan is produced in fulfilment of the council's duty under the Local Government Act 1999 (as amended).

## 2.6 Equalities Impact

The corporate priority Strengthening Harrow's Communities relates to equalities and demonstrates the council's ambitions for equalities. Some indicators within the Appendix relate to this and set specific targets.

## **Section 3: Supporting Information/Background Documents**

Appendix 1 – Performance indicators and Statement on Contracts (colour copies have been circulated to members of Cabinet only)

### Background papers:

Best Value Performance Plan 2004/05. BVPI returns.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers should telephone 020 8424 1815