

Meeting:	Performance & Finance Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Date:	15 July 2008
Subject:	Best Value Performance Plan 2008/09
Key Decision:	Yes
Responsible Officer:	Tom Whiting, Assistant Chief Executive
Portfolio Holder:	Performance, Communication and Corporate Services: Councillor Paul Osborn
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 – draft Best Value Performance Plan

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report submits the draft Best Value Performance Plan for approval and refers to the forthcoming Comprehensive Area Assessment.

Recommendation:

That the Sub-committee endorse the Best Value Performance Plan 2008/09.

Section 2 – Report

Introduction

Publication of a Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) has been a requirement on all relevant authorities since the Local Government Act 1999 came into force in 2000.

This duty is to be abolished by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. However, in March 2008, the Department for Communities and Local Government announced that commencement of the Act had been adjusted so that authorities were required to publish a final BVPP by 30 June 2008.

Required content has, however, been reduced to simply the outturn performance data against Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) and a standard “statement on contracts”. There is no requirement for forward targets against BVPIs, which ceased to have statutory force at 31 March 2008. Appendix 1 shows the information concerned and members’ endorsement is requested.

Members are asked to note that the Plan was approved by Cabinet on 19 June and, owing to the pattern of meetings, has been published to meet the statutory deadline of 30 June, prior to consideration by Scrutiny members and full Council as required. If changes are required as a result of these considerations, an amended version will be published.

As noted, BVPPs are no longer required. This is one of a number of changes to the national performance management framework for local authorities which marks the move from Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) to Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). Whereas CPA looked at and scored the performance of each local authority, CAA looks at the prospects for delivery of services in each geographical area by all partner organisations. A short presentation on how CAA will work will be given at the Sub-Committee’s meeting.

Options considered

There is no option other than to publish a BVPP as required. Method of publication has been left entirely to authorities’ discretion. On this occasion, use of the web alone has been indicated as acceptable and has therefore been adopted.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications from the report’s recommendation.

Performance Issues

This report deals with historic data against BVPIs, as required to be published. It has no effect on future performance against these or other indicators.

Risk Management Implications

The BVPP does not have a separate risk register, nor does it feature in the Directorate Risk Register. Key risks are:

1. The Plan is not published by the statutory deadline. As noted, publication has already occurred so this does not apply.

2. The Plan contains inaccurate data. As part of the external auditors' annual review of data quality they may choose to examine some of the indicators contained in the BVPP. If significant errors are found, an adverse report may be issued with consequences for the council's reputation and Use of Resources judgement. Since such an occurrence in 2002, processes have been in place to ensure data quality.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: ...Jennifer Hydari	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: .. 4 July 2008		
Name: ...Helen White	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: ... 28 June 2008		

Section 5 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Martin Randall, Senior Performance Officer, 020 8424 1815

Background Papers: Returns to BVPIs.