

London Borough of Harrow

To: Education Consultative Forum – 11 September 2008

From: Performance and Finance Scrutiny Sub Committee – 15 July 2008

Minute 81: Best Value Performance Plan 2008-09

The Sub Committee received a report of the Assistant Chief Executive, setting out the draft Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) and information about the forthcoming Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), which would replace the BVPP. An officer reported that the Government had yet to publish detailed guidance on the CAA and, once this was received it would form part of a future training session for Members. As guidance on the CAA was awaited, the Sub Committee focused on the BVPP.

The officer reported that performance had improved on 70 indicators, gone down on 24 and remained broadly unchanged on 25. A total of 58% of indicators were on or above target and 63% had improved on the previous year.

Members noted that the more useful indicators were being retained by the authority as a bench-mark for the future. The officer reported that some would be included in the new National Indicator Set and the Council's Corporate Strategic Board had already agreed to keep some of the BVPP indicators to form the basis from which to develop local indicators. A Member commented on proposed legislation that would allow local authorities to scrutinise the police force. The information set out in the BVPP would be helpful at that time. The Scrutiny Officer reported that he would be briefing the Scrutiny Lead Members for Safer and Stronger Communities on the Policing Green Paper which would be issued soon.

Another officer referred to the training proposed for Members and suggested that Members identify at that time which indicators ought to be retained and monitored.

The Sub Committee agreed to refer to the Education Consultative Forum the issue of using percentages of pupils achieving various national curriculum levels to measure progress and achievement, as it was felt that these indicators encouraged progress towards an average, when more able pupils should be encouraged to achieve more.

RESOLVED: To (1) endorse the Best Value Performance Plan 2008-09;

(2) refer to the Council's Education Consultative Forum the issue of using percentages of pupils achieving various national curriculum levels to measure progress and achievement.