

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	20 April 2004
Subject:	Best Value Performance Plan 2004/05
Key decision:	Yes
Responsible Chief Officer:	Director of Organisational Performance
Relevant Portfolio Holder:	Planning, Development, Housing and Best Value
Status:	Part I
Ward:	All
Enclosures:	Draft Plan

1. **Summary/ Reason for urgency (if applicable)**

- 1.1 This report introduces an initial draft Plan and proposes arrangements for approval and adoption.

2. **Recommendations (for decision by Council)**

- 2.1 That the draft Best Value Performance Plan 2004/05 be adopted, subject to 2.2 below;
- 2.2 That Council authorise Cabinet to amend, modify or vary the Plan as may be necessary prior to publication.

REASON: To ensure that a complete and accurate Plan is published by the statutory deadline.

3. **Consultation with Ward Councillors**

- 3.1 Not applicable.

4. **Policy Context (including Relevant Previous Decisions)**

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5. **Relevance to Corporate Priorities**

5.1 The Best Value Performance Plan incorporates the Council's priorities, as set out in the Corporate Plan, and indicates how they will be addressed.

6. **Background Information and options considered**

6.1 The Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) is required to be published by 30 June. Revised statutory guidance issued by the ODPM in February has reduced the number of mandatory elements to be included in BVPPs.

6.2 This year's Plan has been adjusted accordingly, but also differs in structure from last year's in that commentary on past performance and future plans is arranged not by department, but according to the six themes in the Corporate Plan:

- Environmental
- Strengthening communities
- Lifelong learning
- Health and Social Care
- Prosperous and Sustainable Economy in Harrow
- Developing a Customer Focussed Council

6.3 This "themed" approach allows explicit links to be shown between Council priorities and actions.

6.4 A draft Plan compiled on this basis accompanies this report., for Members' consideration. Recommendations arising from last year's audit of the Plan have also been taken into account. The draft is, at this stage, incomplete, as performance data is not yet available for the last financial year. Commentary which relies on that data is also absent or subject to revision.

6.5 When complete, the Plan will include targets for performance indicators (PIs) for 2004/05 and the two years following. It is the Council's performance against the 2004/05 PIs which will contribute to the 2005 CPA rating and targets will therefore need to be structured to ensure as far as possible that they contribute to a good rating.

6.6 The Plan must be published by 30 June. In accordance with statutory provisions and the Council's Constitution, the full Council must adopt the Plan prior to publication. The only meeting available for this purpose is the Annual Meeting on 13 May. However, the Council may, in adopting the Plan, authorise Cabinet to approve subsequent modifications. It is suggested that Council is recommended accordingly and that Cabinet agrees a final version on 24 June 2004.

6.7 Overview and Scrutiny Committee will receive the draft Plan on 27 April.

7. **Consultation**

7.1 Not applicable.

8. **Finance Observations**

- 8.1 The estimated costs of publishing the Plan and the separate summary information are c. £6,500 which is within the budget provision for 2004/05. This excludes any requirement for translations, the call for which is uncertain but which, on previous years' experience, will also be within budget provision.

9. **Legal Observations**

- 9.1 None.

10. **Conclusion**

- 10.1 Adoption by Council of a draft Plan, with later confirmation of an updated version by Cabinet, is designed to address all relevant requirements.

11. **Background Papers**

- 11.1 Draft Corporate Plan (Cabinet agenda, 16/03/04, available at www.harrow.gov.uk or at the Civic Centre); ODPM Circular 02/2004 (available at www.local-regions.odpm.gov.uk)

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