

HARROW COUNCIL

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	27 April 2004
Subject:	Best Value Performance Plan 2004/05
Key decision:	No
Responsible Chief Officer:	Director of Organisational Performance
Relevant Portfolio Holder:	Planning, Development, Housing and Best Value
Status:	Part I
Ward:	All
Enclosures:	Draft Plan

(NB: The draft Best Value Performance Plan was circulated to all Members of Council in the papers for the Cabinet meeting on 20 April 2004. For reasons of economy, it is not being reproduced on this agenda. If any Member requires a further hard copy, please contact Claire Vincent on 020 8424 1637. The draft Plan is also available on the Council's website at www.harrow.gov.uk)

1. **Summary**

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

2. **Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Committee offer comments on the draft Best Value Performance Plan 2004/05 for consideration by Council on 13 May 2004 in the context of the recommendations made by Cabinet at its meeting on 20 April.

REASON: To ensure that the Committee's views are available to Council in adopting the draft Plan.

3. **Consultation with Ward Councillors**

- 3.1 Not applicable.

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

4.1 The Committee reviewed the 2003/04 Plan on 23 September 2003. That Plan received an unqualified audit report in December 2003. Members endorsed in principle a themed approach to the production of the next Plan, which is the subject of this report.

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 A corresponding report will have been considered by Cabinet on 20 April and Cabinet's recommendations will be reported.

6.2 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.

6.3 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

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

6.5 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 and outturn financial data are not yet available for the last financial year. Commentary which relies on that information is also absent or subject to revision.

6.6 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.

6.7 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. Cabinet has been asked to recommend Council accordingly, with Cabinet agreeing a final version on 24 June 2004.

6.8 This report enables Overview and Scrutiny Committee to put forward any views that it feels Council should have in adopting the draft Plan on 13 May.

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 The Council has a statutory obligation to publish the Best Value Performance Plan by 30 June 2004.

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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