

EXECUTIVE

16 MARCH 2006

BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2006

SUMMARY

The Executive is asked to agree the following recommendation to the Council (13/04/06):

- That the Council's overall approach to Best Value Performance Planning be re-affirmed.
- That the Council's Best Value Performance Plan arrangements for 2006, in accordance with statutory and local requirements, be approved.
- That the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Leader of the Council and Group Leaders, be authorised to approve the final format of the Council's Summary Best Value Performance Plan, based upon the working document to be circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

Reason for Recommendation:

To ensure that the Council is able to publish its Best Value Performance Plan in accordance with statutory and local requirements, given the tight timescale for publication and the various elements still to be completed.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Local Government Act 1999, Part 1, requires all local authorities to prepare an annual Performance Plan as a key element of Best Value. It is seen to provide an opportunity for considering how weaknesses will be addressed, opportunities exploited, better outcomes delivered as well as to articulate proposals for improvement in the coming year. It should also contain future targets.
- 1.2 The early stages of Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) reporting required Summary BVPP information to be provided by 30 March and a full BVPP reported by 30 June in each year. Although the statutory requirement for providing a Summary BVPP was dropped two years ago, it has continued to be provided but in a format that focuses upon the Council's success and future goals and structures them under the banner of the Council's five Strategic Priorities. It has also focused upon strong links to the Council's Key Delivery Targets (KDTs).
- 1.3 Positive feedback has been received from both the Audit Commission and the public in respect of the Council's approach to performance planning.

2. CURRENT GUIDANCE

- 2.1 The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) provided additional guidance on Best Value Performance Planning as an Addendum to the Act, Circular 03/2003. This allowed a less structured stance on BVPPs and allowed freedoms and flexibilities for those Councils that had been classified as 'Excellent' or 'Good' through the CPA process.
- 2.2 Strong recognition is given to the Improvement Planning process and its integration within the Council's Corporate Planning arrangements. This is an area where Guildford has progressed well, where all Corporate elements are drawn together under the 'Corporate Performance' area of the Council's website.

- 2.3 Content of the BVPP should as minimum comprise the following information:
- Details of out-turn performance over the past year on all Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs)
 - Targets for the current and subsequent two years for all BVPIs
 - A brief statement on contracts where staff transfers have occurred, in accordance with the Code of Practice on Workforce Matters in Local Authority Service Contracts.
- 2.4 Engagement with the public on Performance Planning is a recommended aim and it is considered that this is properly achieved through the provision of wide ranging but appropriate data on the 'Corporate Performance' area of the Council's website. This is ably supported by Summary BVPP style information, due to be featured in the May edition of 'About Guildford' and will be available in various formats such as Braille and audio, should they be required.

3. APPROVAL REQUIRED

- 3.1 That the Council's overall approach to Best Value Performance Planning be re-affirmed.
- 3.2 As the BVPP forms part of the Council's Policy Framework, responsibility for its formal approval rests with the Council rather than the Executive, although in the past, completion of the details of the BVPP publication have been delegated.
- 3.3 The outline structure of the Summary BVPP information in a working draft format will be available for circulation at the meeting. The Executive is asked to recommend to the Council that final responsibility for the completion of the text be delegated to the Chief Executive, after consultation with the Leader of the Council and Group Leaders.

4. RECOMMENDATION (to Council: 13/4/06)

- 4.1 That the Chief Executive be authorised, after consultation with the Leader of the Council and Group Leaders, to approve the final format of the Council's Summary Best Value Performance Plan, based upon the outline structure and the draft document to be circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

Reason for Recommendation:

To ensure that the Council is able to publish its Best Value Performance Plan in accordance with statutory and local requirements, given the tight timescale and the various elements still to be completed.

Background Papers:

Local Government Act 1999: Part 1 Best Value and Performance Improvement
Addendum to ODPM Circular 03/2003

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