

REPORT TO: BEST VALUE SUB COMMITTEE – 16 MARCH 2005
REPORT BY: ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY PLANNING)
REPORT ON: BEST VALUE REVIEW PROGRAMME
REPORT NO: 174-2005

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report revises the best value review programme for the current year.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The sub committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 approve the best value review programme set out in Section 7 of the report
- 2.2 continue to monitor progress and review priorities for best value reviews on an annual basis

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications resulting from this report.

4. SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Each Best Value Review will consider relevant sustainable development issues.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

Each Best Value Review will consider relevant equalities implications.

6. MAIN REPORT

The Council Plan contains 36 Best Value Reviews spread over the years 2003-2007 as agreed by the Best Value Sub Committee, August 2003. Since then two of the reviews have reported. These were the reviews on 'property and land in a state of disrepair' and 'benefit and council tax'. A further ten reviews have started and these are listed in Appendix 1 with a short progress report on each. Twenty new reviews were scheduled to commence now, however this report recommends a reprioritisation of the review programme that would add just four reviews to those already in progress.

Appendix 2 lists the reviews that were included in the original programme for 2005 that have not started and it is proposed to delete these from the review programme. In most cases these review topics have been overtaken by events or are being addressed by other groups. For example, reviews in relation to options concerning alternatives to Tayside House. Also the high number of reviews, if these are not deleted, would place a considerable burden on the authority. On a positive note the identification of reviews by the committees suggest that there is a general awareness by Members and Senior Officers that commissioning a Best Value Review when it is needed is an option available to improve the scrutiny of an issue. For example, in the last year reviews of sheltered wardens, the occupational therapy service and education attainment have been set up by the committee. This suggests that rather than attempt to programme all

reviews over a four year period it is best to review the best value activity on an annual basis only and take account of reviews set up by committees in the year.

7. 2005 BEST VALUE REVIEW PROGRAMME

The reviews already started but not yet complete are set out in Appendix 1 and will be completed in 2005. The reviews of 'sheltered wardens', 'occupational therapy services' and education attainment established by the Policy and Resources and Education Committees will also be completed in 2005. The reviews listed in table 1 below are from the original programme and it is proposed to continue to set these up following the sub-committees approval.

Table 1 Best Value Review Programme 2005

	Review Topic	Lead Officer
1.	How can the Council improve the Health and Safety of staff in schools?	Director of Education
2.	Is the variety of organisations that inform and advise young people leaving school delivering best value?	Director of Economic Development
3.	Are school/council catering operations achieving health improvement objectives and should they be expanded	Director of Education
4.	How can the Council meet its recycling targets and be Best Value (include fly tipping reduction)	Chief Executive

8. CONSULTATION

All Directors have been consulted on the contents of this report.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

4 Year Best Value Review Programme Report No 551-2003

Chris Ward
Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning)..... 10/03/2005

Appendix 1

Best Value Reviews in 2003-2007 Programme in Progress and Proposed to Complete

Review Topic	Progress Report
CCTV Maximisation	The group is set up. A consultant's report on the options for efficiency and effectiveness of the various CCTV installations is expected early 2005
Effective approaches to creating employment opportunities	Review team established. Planning stage and issues identified. Aim to report Autumn 2005
Can better value be achieved from all the public resources that promote physical activity?	Review groups established. A regional strategy has also been agreed with partners and aim to report June 2005
What responses to community safety create the best sense of improved security for older people?	Group has completed surveys of older people and is considering its recommendations. Aim to report May 2005
Joined up approaches to managing neighbourhood streetscape and landscape	Review group set up and being considered within BNSF project. Aim to report December 2005
Best value improvements to the City's public transport infrastructure	Review group set up and draft report prepared. Aim to report June 2005
* Non-Housing repairs	Working group set up and ready to report on lessons learned from housing repairs review on other repairs and maintenance
* How to meet the demands for sheltered housing cost effectively	This review was added by the Policy and Resources Committee August 2004 and the review group is established
* Occupational Therapy Service	This review was added by the Policy and Resources Committee February 2005
* Education Attainment	This review was added by the Education Committee February 2005

* not in the original review programme

Appendix 2

Best Value Reviews listed in the Council Plan Best Value Review Programme - Proposed to Delete

Review Topic	Progress Report
Are resources encouraging entrepreneurial activity effectively?	Economic Development Plan addresses this
Will community wardens be a best value approach to building stronger communities?	A review team was established but the community warden approach has been adopted and expanded by the Policy and Resources Committee. A Scottish Executive contract for external evaluation has been let and therefore it is recommended to report its findings on the best value of the scheme in due course
Do current factoring arrangements for citizens living in tenements provide best value?	Legislation relating to tenements, anti-social behaviour and feudal duties is changing. Recommended to await changes and bring forward proposals
What would be the best value approach to tackling vandalism?	Community safety strategy addresses this
How to make use of modern telephone voting and internet channels of participation?	New ICT Customer Service strategy to address this topic
To consider proposals for office accommodation when Tayside House is demolished	Events have overtaken the need for this review. A working group is established on the issue
Best Value implications of exclusion from school	Education attainment best value review will address this
Best Value approach to equipping all school pupils with modern learning tools	New ICT strategy is addressing this issue
Best Value approach to tackling illegal drugs in Dundee	New joint group established in Tayside is addressing this issue
What is the most effective way to consult local people on local issues?	Local community plans and the new standards for community engagement pilot will address this
How can we improve rent collection?	Being addressed in new contact centre approach
Improve voting through how elections are run?	Being addressed through national bodies on new voting system
What is the best value approach to improving accessibility of Council services to people with disabilities?	Disability Access Group established and addressing this