

REPORT TO: BEST VALUE SUB COMMITTEE - 24 JANUARY 2006
REPORT ON: REMIT OF THE COMMITTEE
REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
REPORT NO: 87-2006

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report proposes a means by which the sub-committee can fulfil its expanded remit in relation to best value and efficient government

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The sub-committee schedules two meetings per annum to consider an overall assessment of progress and performance in relation to Best Value and Efficient Government.
- 2.2 At the meetings referred to in 2.1 the sub-committee should review assessment reports on overall performance of the council, the Best Value Improvement Plan, Efficient Government and Best Value Reviews.
- 2.3 Ad-hoc meetings of the sub-committee will continue to be called to consider specific reviews and exception issues in relation to Best Value and efficient government.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

4 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

None

5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

None

6 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 17 October 2005 agreed a report on the Efficient Government programme. This contained two specific recommendations in relation to the sub-committee's remit and frequency of meetings.

"2.2 The Committee agreed to expanding the remit of the Best Value Sub-Committee as follows:

- to consider all matters associated with Best Value and efficient government making recommendations to the Policy and Resources Committee as appropriate*

2.3 The Best Value Sub-Committee be remitted to meet at least bi-annually to consider efficient government monitoring reports"

- 6.2 The matters associated with Best Value can now be encapsulated in the Best Value Improvement Plan and the programme of Best Value reviews. The Best Value Improvement Plan was the agreed outcome of the Best Value audit and agreed by the Council on 24 October 2005. It is proposed that at least two meetings of the sub-committee per year an assessment on progress is presented on these actions contained in this plan.
- 6.3 The current programme of Best Value Review's is in its final year. There are 14 of the reviews to be completed in 2006. It is proposed that at least two meetings per year the sub-committee assess progress on the programme of Best Value reviews.
- 6.4 The report on efficient government identified four projects the Council was involved with that have applied for Efficient Government Funding. Final decisions on these projects are awaited from the Executive.
- 6.5 The report to the Policy and Resources Committee sets out that efficient government is concerned with the following themes:
1. Procurement
 2. Managing Absence
 3. Asset Management
 4. Shared Support Services
 5. Streamlining bureaucracy
- 6.6 The Council is also expected to report annually on efficiency savings made each year. The Depute Chief Executive (Finance) will be proposing a method of collating and reporting on this.
- 6.7 An officer working group Efficient Government Board chaired by the Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) has been set up to progress the efficient government projects and themes. This will monitor implementation of the efficient government fund projects and those identified in the council's Customer First Strategy namely:
- Procurement Strategy
 - Flexible Working
 - Asset management
- 6.8 The Corporate Planning Department has established an online database that automatically requires relevant managers to update agreed strategic action plans on progress. The Strategic Plan Monitoring Database as it is know includes all the projects from the Council Plan, Service Plans to the Best Value Improvement Plan. This helps the Chief Executive make more frequent assessments of progress on the performance in implementing those agreed actions. It is planned to produce a quarterly report for the Chief Executives Management Team meeting showing the number of projects on schedule and highlighting issues of poor performance or projects behind schedule to be dealt with on an exception basis. It is proposed that a summary of these reports is presented to the Best Value Sub-Committee on a half yearly basis.
- 6.9 The next half yearly meeting of the Best Value Sub--Committee will therefore feature the first full update reports on:
1. Best Value Implementation Plan
 2. Overall Performance from the Strategic Plan Monitoring Database
 3. Efficient Government Project updates
 4. Best Value Review

6.10 Currently the sub-committee meets when Best Value Reviews are ready for reporting. In order to review overall performance on a half yearly basis on the above reports it is recommended that the Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) schedules at least two meetings. One would be in June just prior to recess and one in December. Other meetings can still be called when reviews or important issues in relation to Best Value and Efficient Government arise.

7 CONSULTATION

The Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and the Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) have been consulted on this report.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Report 626-2005 - The Audit of Best Value and Community Planning
Report 561-2005 - Efficient Government
Report 400-2005 - Corporate Customer First Strategy

Chris Ward
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