

BEST VALUE AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN – 2001

Appendix 3

Conclusions	Recommendations	Management response	Timing
<p>COMPLIANCE WITH BVPP CONTENT REQUIREMENTS We have assessed the BVPP as compliant. The following improvements are recommended for future years:</p>			
<p>The BVPP does not combine any information on the resources required to deliver the review programme as required by the guidance</p>	<p>The BVPP should give what information it is possible to provide.</p>	<p>We would welcome guidance from PKF on the nature of the information required and how it can be presented, to be incorporated in next year's BVPP</p>	<p>Guidance still awaited March 2003 Guidance has not been received from PKF. No ongoing issues were raised as action points in 2002 Audit Letter. DELETE</p>
<p>The authority has carried out a great deal of consultation during the year. However, it has not carried out any direct consultation of electors on the overall objectives of the authority.</p>	<p>The authority should ensure that it seeks the views of the electors on the overall objectives as part of its consultation for developing the Community Strategy.</p>	<p>Consultation will be undertaken as part of the development of the Community Strategy</p>	<p>A report on consultation was reported into F & P in October 2002 March 2003 Consultation period is due to commence in June until August</p>

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Authority's systems for collecting and recording the specified performance information required under Best Value are generally sound. The following improvements are recommended for future years.

<p>The plan does not include any quality of life indicators and has few local indicators</p>	<p>The authority should develop Quality of Life and more local indicators as part of the development of the Community Strategy.</p>	<p>It will be considered for the next BVPP</p>	<p>March 2002 no new indicators introduced in 2002 plan March 2003 These are voluntary indicators and have not, as yet, been adopted by Rochford. DELETE</p>
<p>Cost based target indicators are derived from next year's budget. Unless the budget is part of a medium term financial planning process linked to the performance management framework by costed medium term service plans, the target so derived may not be sufficiently challenging.</p>	<p>Either budgeting should be linked to a medium term financial planning process and the performance management framework, or the cost targets produced should be reviewed to see whether they need to be flexed to ensure they are sufficiently challenging.</p>	<p>The relationship between financial planning and performance management needs further development in the light of the government's White Paper – Strong Local Leadership – Quality Public Services and has implications both in terms of the Corporate Plan & BVPP process.</p>	<p>June 2003 A report is planned for submission to committee in June 2003 covering risk based assessments of the budget monitoring process. This will lead into budget cycle for 2004/05 to consider budget requirements relating to performance issues.</p>