

CORPORATE PLAN/BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report formally introduces this year's Corporate Plan/Best Value Performance Plan for Member consideration and approval, subject to any comments.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 In previous years, the Council has produced separate Corporate Plan and Best Value Performance Plan documents. However, the content of both resulted in a considerable degree of repetition and overlap between the documents and so this year, the plans have been amalgamated into a single document titled 'Rochford District Council – A Review of Our Performance in 2001/2002 and Future Work Programme 2002-2003'.
- 2.2 A copy of the new document will be despatched under separate cover.

3 DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The new document represents an updated version of both the Corporate Plan and Best Value Performance Plans agreed last year. It provides details of how the Council has performed over the past year, and what targets it has set itself for the forthcoming year and future years, up until 2005, to tie in with the 3 year agreed budget strategy. It also contains details of the Council's Best Value Service Review Programme, approved by the former Finance & General Purposes Committee in February (Min. 61/2002).
- 3.2 As in previous years, the document before Members also contains elements of other plans and strategies produced by the Council e.g. the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy, the Annual Budget, Capital Programme and Budget strategy, etc. and also information from the Quarterly Monitoring Reports. In addition, it includes the Performance Indicators as specified by both Central Government and the Audit

Commission. The majority of the information is therefore not new as such.

- 3.3 The document provides a useful snapshot of the Authority, its services, performance and programme of action. It therefore has merit on that basis alone.
- 3.4 As has happened in previous years, Members will receive a half-yearly review relating to progress in the autumn cycle (Min. 386/2001). In addition, through the Quarterly Monitoring Reports Members can get an update of progress on a quarterly basis.
- 3.5 Subject to any comments and amendments this evening, the document, once approved, will be printed and made available for public inspection at the Council Offices, the Civic Suite reception and at libraries throughout the District. In addition, copies will be sent to partner organisations for information purposes. A copy will also be placed on the Council's website.

4 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The document makes reference to the Council's obligations in respect of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The document makes reference to the Council's aspirations in respect of Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability.

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The publication of a Best Value Performance Plan is a statutory requirement. All Plans have to be published by the end of June.

7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The printing of the Plan will be funded from the Chief Executive's budget head. As outlined in previous years, the preparation of this Plan impacts upon, and will continue to require senior officer time, as it is developed and monitored. The cost of preparation, printing and production, including the staffing resources involved in writing the Plan, is estimated at around £10,000. This represents a saving on previous years as, with the appropriate systems now in place, the writing of the plan becomes easier.

- 7.2 The Best Value element will be audited by the external auditors to ensure that it complies with the regulations and guidance. In addition, it is likely to be one of the key reference documents used in the Comprehensive Performance Assessment process which commences late 2002/early 2003.

8 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 All parish and town councils will receive a copy of the document once it is approved.

9 RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 It is proposed that the Council **RESOLVES** that subject of any specific comments and amendments, the Corporate Plan/Best Value Annual Performance Plan be approved.

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Chief Executive

Background Papers:

None

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