
**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER - CONSULTATION ON
BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2003/2004**

1 SUMMARY

This report details the proposals put forward by Government for changes to the performance indicators for local authorities for 2003/04 and seeks members' feedback on these proposals. The consultation paper also outlines further proposals relating to the content of the statutory surveys due in 2003/04 as part of the Best Value process.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's proposals outlined in the consultation have in mind the following principles:

- shared priorities and the new national Public Sector Agreement (PSA) targets for local government
- Government departments' own PSA targets that are relevant to local government
- the Government's work to target best value reviews as high priority and cross-cutting issues such as health inequalities and open spaces
- the White Paper's proposals to review the number of plans requested of local government
- the requirement for continuity of data required from year to year.

2.2 A copy of the consultation document and survey templates have been placed in the Members' Room for information

3 SPECIFIC CONTENT

3.1 The number of national Best Value Performance Indicators proposed for district councils will be 47, some of which include multi-part questions. Two new indicators are being included to cover plan making and litter.

3.2 In addition to the above, user best value statutory surveys are due to be undertaken again in 2003/04 and it is anticipated that 9 indicators will measure satisfaction levels as indicated from the survey responses. A question on quality of life and user expectations is to be included in the general satisfaction survey for the first time.

3.3 The consultation paper also advises that specific targets are to be set for those authorities performing poorly on planning applications. We are already performing above the minimum standard set and will therefore be excluded from this provision.

3.4 The paper emphasises that targets should continue to be set at a local level but the emphasis on achieving top quartile figures will remain.

4 OFFICER RESPONSE

4.1 Responses to the consultation paper are requested by 29 October. Officers have now gone through the details as proposed within the consultation paper and the suggested response is as outlined in Appendix A. As members will see, the proposed response comments on the specific wordings associated with some of the proposed BVPIs and also the survey questions to be asked.

4.2 The amount of officer time spent on such issues and the amount of data collected is such that it is important that the nature and type of detail required for the process, which is a statutory function, is as unambiguous and undemanding (in resource terms) as possible.

5 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

Certain of the BVPIs relate to crime and disorder issues.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Certain of the BVPIs relate to environmental issues.

7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The collation of performance indicators will continue to be a resource-intensive exercise.

8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Changes to the gathering and submission of this information will be statutory

9 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

None

10 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That, subject to Member consideration and comments, the responses detailed in appendix A be agreed. (CEX)

Paul Warren
Chief Executive

Background Papers:

Best Value Performance Indicators 2003/2004 – Consultation Paper
(available in Members Room and at
<http://www.local-regions.odpm.gov.uk/bestvalue/indicators/indicatorsindex.htm>)

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