

## **BEST VALUE – PROGRAMME OF SERVICE REVIEWS**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report outlines a revised Programme of Best Value Reviews for Members' consideration and comment. There is a statutory requirement to have such a programme.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 In autumn 1999, Members agreed a rolling programme of service reviews as required under the Best Value legislation and this was revised in February 2001 to take regard of guidance from the Audit Commission that local authorities should review their programmes to conduct fewer, more cross-cutting reviews.
- 2.2 The work undertaken during 2001/02 has identified a major resource requirement in conducting more broad-based reviews and consequently this report outlines further proposed changes for the years 2002/03 to 2004/05.

### **3 CONSIDERATIONS**

#### Current Programme

- 3.1 The current programme for service reviews is:

2001/02	Community Safety Economic Regeneration Emergency Planning Strategic Housing (continuing from year 1) Housing Management (continuing from year 1) Development and Building Control
2002/03	Financial Management Public Regulation, Inspection and Protection Environmental Stewardship
2003/04	Managing our Environment Communications Transport Activities and Parking Democratic Renewal
2004/05	Support Services

- 3.2 Those on Strategic Housing and Housing Management have now been completed and that relating to Development and Building Control is well underway. The Community Safety Review is being conducted County-wide although it is intended to pick up pertinent issues locally. This review will be reported into the new Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Work on the Emergency Planning Review is also now underway and will also be reported into the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Given the absence of resources in the Corporate Policy Unit for much of the year, and particularly in the absence of an Economic Development Officer, the Economic Regeneration review has been postponed, as agreed by full Council in July 2001 (Min. 276/2001). The Best Value Inspectorate have been kept advised of progress.

Future Programme

- 3.3 In looking at the programme for 2002/03 and beyond, it is felt that, based on current experience, the Authority only has the capacity to carry out two or three large-scale cross-cutting reviews per year. It should also be noted that the Best Value regime is currently under review by Central Government and further changes to the current process whereby a 5 year comprehensive service review programme is required, may occur in due course.
- 3.4 However, at this stage, it is considered that there would be benefit in amending the current programme to concentrate on Best Value Reviews in the areas of Financial Management and Public Regulation, Inspection and Protection in 2002/03 and moving the Environmental Stewardship review to 2003/04 alongside Managing our Environment, Transport Activities and Parking would remain in 2003/04 to pick up issues around decriminalisation, amongst other things. Communications would move to 2004/05.

- 3.5 The proposed revised programme for reviews is as follows:

2001/02	Community Safety Emergency Planning Strategic Housing (continuing from year 1) Housing Management (continuing from year 1) Development and Building Control
2002/03	Financial Management Public Regulation, Inspection and Protection
2003/04	Managing our Environment Environmental Stewardship Transport Activities and Parking
2004/05	Democratic Renewal

Communications

2005/06

Support Services

**4 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Some of the reviews will cover crime and disorder issues.

**5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Some of the reviews will cover environmental issues.

**6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The programme, the planned reviews will impact upon both Members and staff resources.

**7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There is currently a statutory requirement for each Council to publish a 5 year programme of reviews within its Best Value Performance Plan and to report on progress on, and outcomes from, these reviews.

**8 PARISH IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 Parishes will be consulted on individual reviews as appropriate.

**9 RECOMMENDATION**

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

Subject to Member consideration and comments, that the programme of service reviews as set out in paragraph 3.5 of this report is agreed.

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Chief Executive

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