

## **BEST VALUE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLAN (Min 94/00)**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 To seek members' approval for the Best Value Annual Performance Plan. The publication of this Plan is a statutory requirement.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 Under the Best Value legislation, local authorities are duty bound to produce annual Best Value Performance Plans. In addition, local authorities must ensure that these plans are available for public inspection and consideration, and that the contents are reproduced in a 'user friendly' public form. The Best Value Annual Performance Plan needs to be approved and in place by 31 March 2001.

### **3 DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 The Best Value Performance Plan provides details of what the Council does, how it has performed over the past year, and what targets it has set itself for the forthcoming year. It also contains details of the Council's Best Value Service Review Programme, which was approved by Finance and General Purposes Committee in February. (Min. 72/01). A copy of this year's Best Value Performance Plan will follow under separate cover.
- 3.2 As last year, the Plan now before Members contains elements of the Corporate Plan, other strategic documents produced by the Council e.g. the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy, the Annual Financial Statement and the Quarterly Monitoring Reports. In addition, it includes the Performance Indicators as specified by both Central Government and the Audit Commission. Thus, the majority of information contained within it is not new as such, rather it is presented in a different format.
- 3.3 The Plan provides a useful snapshot of the Authority, its services and performance, and has merit on that basis alone. Clearly, its value is likely to increase year on year as progress can be measured over time, although there remains concern over the nature and type of some of the performance indicators being prescribed, and their relative value.

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- 3.4 As happened last year, Members will receive a half-yearly review relating to progress in the autumn cycle. In addition, as Members are aware, the Quarterly Monitoring Reports have already been amended to reflect the Performance Indicators included in the Plan and thus Members can get a snapshot of progress on a quarterly basis.
- 3.5 Subject to the Plan being approved by Members, it 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. Space has already been reserved in the next edition of Rochford District Matters, due for distribution at the end of the month, to ensure that the District Council meets the requirements as detailed by Central Government in respect of public awareness about the document and its content. The intention is to provide a summary of the Performance Plan and to make the public aware of the availability of a more comprehensive document. A copy will also be placed on the Council's web site.

#### **4 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

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

#### **5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

#### **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The printing of the Plan will be funded from the Chief Executive's budget head. As outlined last year, 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 this Plan, is estimated at around £18,000, a slight reduction on last year's figure of £20,000.
- 6.2 The Best Value Plan will be audited and in due course the Best Value Inspectorate will be carrying out inspections of selected service reviews once they have been completed. The first review to be inspected will be Asset Management, which commences next month. That is likely to be followed by Leisure in June or July.

**7 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The Best Value Annual Performance Plan has to be approved and in place by 31 March, 2001.

**8 PARISH IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 All parish and town councils will receive a copy of the Best Value Annual Performance Plan for information once it is approved.

**9 RECOMMENDATION**

- 9.1 It is proposed that the Council **RESOLVES** That subject to any specific comments and amendments, the Best Value Annual Performance Plan be approved. (CE)

Paul Warren

Chief Executive

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**Background Papers:**

None

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