

BEST VALUE REVIEW – ASSET MANAGEMENT

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report updates Members on progress to date of the Best Value Review in respect of Asset Management and seeks the Sub-Committee's agreement to the involvement of a small group of Members in progressing the Review.

2 BACKGROUND TO THE REVIEW

- 2.1 This is a cross-cutting review affecting all services and concentrates on the policies and procedures to be adopted by the Council for the management of its assets rather than a review of the assets in themselves. The Review Team has used the knowledge gained through the review process to prepare a draft Asset Management Plan as required for the "Single Capital Pot - Dry Run". This in itself is already one outcome of the review.
- 2.2 The Review Team has now reached a critical point in the Best Value Review process - the initial survey work has been completed, the public's view has been sought on the current position - where comparison and challenge begins. Castle Point Borough Council have already expressed an interest in the work carried out and have agreed to become involved as a benchmarking partner and to assist with the external challenge. Member's input is now seen as critical if the review is to move forward and reach its conclusion to enable a report to be considered at the next meeting of this Committee.

3 THE NEXT STAGE

- 3.1 Given that Member input is a very important part of the process, it is suggested that this Sub-committee now nominate four Members, one from each Party, to join the Review Team over the next 2/3 weeks. The purpose will be to consider the work to date and join the discussion on challenge, options and the means for delivery of the service. This will involve a perusal of the data gathered so far and would involve between 2 to 4 one-hour meetings.

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- 3.2 The intention would then be to report back into this Committee at the end of November outlining the conclusions of the Review. The Best Value Inspectorate has identified Asset Management as the first review to be inspected at Rochford and this has now been scheduled for January 2001, although the exact dates have yet to be agreed.

4 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Sub- Committee **RESOLVES**

to nominate four Members, one from each Party, to assist in the Best Value Asset Management Review.

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Background Papers:

None

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