

Meeting: Annual Council
Portfolio Area: Performance and Improvement
Date: 30th June 2004

2004/05 BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN
(Chief Executive's)

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1 PURPOSE

To consider and agree the Council's Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) for 2004/05

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

To agree the content of the Council's 2004/05 Best Value Performance Plan for publication

To note the Council's final pre-audited 2003/04 performance against the BVPIs (see pages 87-95)

To agree the Council's targets for 2004/05 to 2008/09 against the Best Value Performance Indicators (see pages 87-95)

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Corporate Business Strategy Stevenage Borough Council – 'Changing Gear'

3.1.1 On 12th November 2003, the Executive considered a report on the Council's Corporate Business Strategy *Stevenage Borough Council – 'Changing Gear'*. This agreed the reviewed corporate business strategy, which involved consultation with officers and Members and reflects results of public consultation.

3.1.2 The Corporate Business Strategy *Stevenage Borough Council – 'Changing Gear'* forms the basis of the Best Value Performance Plan.

3.2 2004/05 Best Value Performance Plan

3.2.1 The December 2001 White Paper - 'Strong Local Leadership – Quality Public Services' introduced a revised performance management framework for local authorities and some changes to best value requirements. The publication date for the Best Value Performance Plan was changed to 30th June each year to allow the document to be based on actual rather than estimated performance information.

- 3.2.2 As well as containing the Council's plans for the next 12 months, the Best Value Performance Plan includes performance targets against nationally determined BVPIs and local performance indicators.

4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION AND OTHER OPTIONS

4.1 Content of the 2004/05 Best Value Performance Plan

- 4.1.1 On 21st April 2004, the Executive agreed the timetable for publication of the Best Value Performance Plan. To achieve the publication deadline, the Executive agreed to Scrutiny Overview Committee reporting any comments direct to the meeting of full council on the 30th June 2003. At the date of writing this report, no comments have been received from members of the Scrutiny Overview Committee. The full timetable is shown below.

DATE	MEETING
1 st April 04	Performance, priorities & improvement group
21 st April '04	Executive
26 th April '04	Scrutiny overview committee
30th June '04	Full council

- 4.1.2 The format of the BVPP has been slightly modified to emphasise the Council's clearer direction, as set out in the Corporate Business Strategy. The structure of the plan is based around the Council's ambitions and priorities, reporting on last year's progress and detailing clear action plans for 2004/05 and beyond.

- 4.1.3 The contents of the BVPP is set out in the table below:

Section	Page
Message from the Leader of the Council	
Introduction from the Chief Executive	
The role of the Council	
Contact your Councillor	
"Changing Gear: The Council's Corporate Business Strategy 2004/05 – 2006/07	
The development of the corporate business strategy for 2004/05	
Ambition – Community Leadership	
Priority – Engaging Local Communities	
Priority – Development of Partnership Working	
Priority – Enhancing the Image of Stevenage	
Ambition – The Regeneration of Stevenage	
Priority – A Vibrant Town Centre	
Priority – Affordable Housing	
Priority – Improved Community Safety	
Priority – The Expansion of the Town	
Priority – Revitalised Local Communities, Community Facilities and shops	
Ambition – First Class Customer Service and Good Quality Services from the Council	
Priority – The cleanliness and condition of the local environment	
Priority – 'One Stop Experience' Customer Service	

Priority – The Provision of a Top Quality Housing Service to Tenants and those in Need of housing	
Priority – Sustainable Management of Waste	
Ambition – A Fair and Inclusive Community	
Priority – Equalities and Diversity	
Building the Capacity of the Organisation	
E-government and Business Process Re-engineering	
Performance Management	
Risk Management	
Sustainability	
Procurement	
Human Resources	
Asset Management	
A-Z of service performance and achievements	
The Council's Resources 2004/05	
The Council's Political and Decision Making Arrangements	
What do you think?	
The Council's Performance 2003/04	
Statutory Best Value Performance Indicators	

4.1.4 Members are asked to note that while every effort has been made to present the plan in a complete form, page number references within the text are missing.

4.1.5 As in previous years, a summary of the BVPP will be included in the July edition of Chronicle

4.2 Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs)

4.2.1 At the back of the Best Value Performance Plan are tables containing the Council's 2003/04 performance against the nationally determined BVPIs. This information must be audited and returned to the Audit Commission who will produce comparative data for all Local Authorities in Autumn 2004. Members are asked to note the end of year performance included in the Best Value Performance Plan.

4.2.2 Financial data for BV86 and 107 are missing due to end of year accounting but will be included as estimates in the final publications. Also included in the tables are the Council's performance targets for the next 5 years, as per the government's requirements. Portfolio Holders will have already been consulted regarding these and are asked to confirm them through this report.

4.3 Publication of the Best Value Performance Plan

4.3.1 In order to meet statutory requirements for publication of the BVPP, the document has been made available on the Council's website. By mid July the document will also be available on CD-Rom and in a two tone printed document.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Policy Implications

The Best Value Performance Plan summarises the Council's main policy and performance priorities for the next year.

5.2 Financial Implications

The financial implications of the policies set out in the Best Value Performance Plan for 2004/05 are included in the Council's 2004/05 budget.

5.3 Legal Implications

Failure to publish the best value performance plan by the 30th June will result in the council being in breach of legislation

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- December 2001 White Paper "Strong Local Leadership – Quality Public Services"
- Local Government (Best Value) Performance Plans and Reviews Amendment Order