

**Meeting of the Council - 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2006**

**Report of the Cabinet**

**The Best Value Performance Plan 2006**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To approve the Best Value Performance Plan for the current year and the arrangements for its publication.

**Background**

2. The Council's seventh annual Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) is being produced in accordance with Government requirements.
3. Under the former Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) regime the Authority was categorised as 'fair' and, as such, the Council's BVPP was required to include:
  - a) A brief summary of the authority's strategic objectives and priorities for improvement. This should reflect its corporate business planning processes and community strategy.
  - b) Arrangements for addressing the authority's improvement priorities, particularly the opportunities and weaknesses identified in CPA (or self-assessment where a CPA has not reported), and the outcomes that are expected to be achieved as a result.
  - c) Details of performance:
    - Historical performance information
    - Outturn performance over the past year on all Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI's)
    - Targets for future performance
  - d) A brief statement on contracts. The authority should state and certify that all individual contracts awarded during the past year which involve a transfer of staff comply, where applicable, with the

requirements in the Code of Practice on Workforce Matters in Local Authority Service Contracts.

4. The requirements for this year's plans have not yet been confirmed but are not expected to be greatly different from previous years. However, as the Authority is now categorised as three star, the requirements may be less than those indicated at paragraph 3 above.
  - a. As in previous years, the BVPP will be subject to audit.
  - b. Publication of the BVPP was required by 30<sup>th</sup> June. Inclusion on the internet constitutes publication and has been the favoured method since 2002, although a small number of paper copies must still be produced.
  - c. Requirements for production and publication conflict with the Council's calendar of meetings meaning that approval of the BVPP is not possible before publication.
5. The Cabinet, at its meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2006, approved the content of the plan, as described above and subject to any further guidance and resolved that the completed plan be submitted to the Council for approval. The completed plan have been placed in the Members' Room and on CMIS and a hard copy may be obtained by Members on request to Richard Sanders, Democratic Services Directorate of Law and Property on (018384) 815236 or e-mail [richard.sanders@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:richard.sanders@dudley.gov.uk).
6. The Plan was published on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2006 in the manner described in paragraph 4(b) to meet the deadline prescribed. The Plan comprises the Council Action Plan and additional information, necessary for Government to monitor performance, as appendices. This approach, agreed with The Audit Commission, is in keeping with the latest guidance and removes the need for the Plan to be an entirely separate document.

## **Finance**

7. There are no financial implications for this report.

## **Law**

8. The Best Value Performance Plan is required under Section 6 of the Local Government Act 1999.

### **Equality Impact**

9. The BVPP contains performance information in relation to equality which assists the Council in measuring progress towards implementing its equality and diversity policies.
10. The BVPP contains a summary of the Authority's strategic objectives and priorities for improvements which were developed following widespread consultation including specific consultation with children and young people.

### **Recommendations**

11. That the Best Value Performance Plan for the current year, as attached to this report, be approved.
12. That the action taken, in publishing the plan by 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2006, in accordance with the requirement referred to in paragraph 4(b) above, be confirmed.

*David Caunt*

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**LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**