



Leicester  
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED**      All – corporate report

## **FORWARD TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS**

**CABINET**

**30<sup>TH</sup> July 2001**

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### **AUDIT of BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN**

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#### **REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (CORPORATE STRATEGY)**

##### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of the annual statutory audit of the Council's Best Value Performance Plan. The audit report is formed in three parts, a statutory report, a summary report, and an action plan. The statutory report has to be published within 30 working days of receipt.

##### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Directors/Members are recommended to:
- Approve the Council's response to the statutory report.
  - Agree the proposed method of publicising the audit.

##### **3. HEADLINE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The cost of the Audit work and publication has been included in the Council's 2001/2002 Budget.

## **4. SUMMARY**

- 4.1** Under the legislation for Best Value the District Audit are required to carry out a statutory audit of the Council's Performance Plan annually. The audit constituted three parts which were:
- An audit of the performance plan to ascertain if it meets the requirements set out in the national guidelines
  - An audit of the performance indicators including their accuracy and the improvement targets.
  - An audit of the Council's corporate and management arrangements to support Best Value.
- 4.2** The main part of the audit work was carried out over the period March to May 2001. It was undertaken by a team working under the day to day management of Mr. C Leeland. The team visits were facilitated by the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Strategy) and the Head of Performance & Best Value. The primary method of audit was through examination of records, documents and interviews of Members and Officers throughout the Council. The Council has been able to comment on the draft report and the comments were taken on board.
- 4.3** A survey, yet to be completed, is also being carried out. This survey will give an overall picture of how well Best Value is now embedded in the Council.
- 4.4** The main findings of the audit are set out on page 2 of the summary report and these show that very significant progress has been made to meet the Government's requirements for Best Value. Overall the audit has shown that the arrangements for Best Value and the contents of the performance plan are in line with expectations. There are a few areas where action is needed to show full compliance. Indeed the fact that there are no statutory recommendations in the report is exceptional and shows just how much progress has been made. However an action plan, as recommended by the District Audit Service, will be developed to move the Council even further forward in terms of the Best Value process.

4.5 Attached is the full statutory report and summary report. Copies of the detailed audit findings can be made available on request from the Policy & Performance Team and a copy has been placed in the Members' area. The overall conclusion in the summary report is that:

"The plan is a well presented and useful document.

This statutory audit report which was issued on 29 June 2001:

- Includes an unqualified opinion
- Contains no recommendations which require a formal response
- Does not recommend that the Audit Commission should carry out a Best Value Inspection or that the Secretary of State give a direction"

4.6 The presentation of this report to Committee represents publication at the legal minimum. However to provide wider access to the audit it is proposed to include a feature in Link, arrange coverage in the local media via a press release and make the statutory and summary reports available to the public in the customer service centre, libraries, housing offices, neighbourhood centres and sport and leisure centres.



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#### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**1. Report**

See attached reports of the District Auditor

**2. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

**2.1 Financial Implications**

2.1.1 The cost of the Audit work has been included in the Council's 2001/2002 Budget. The cost of publishing the findings and developing the detailed action plan will be contained within the current budget for Best Value.

**2.2 Legal Implications**

2.2.1 Failure to publish the statutory report in the timescale will lead to a break of statutory requirements.

### 3. Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within Supporting information	References
Equal Opportunities	No		
Policy	No		
Sustainable and Environmental	No		
Crime and Disorder	No		
Human Rights Act	No		

### 4. Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972

4.1 'Audit and Inspection' file in the Policy & Performance Team, 7<sup>th</sup> floor 'B' Block.

### 5. Consultations

5.1 This report has not been consulted on at this stage. Over the coming weeks it will form the basis of discussions within the Council on its findings to pursue the recommendations made.

### 6. Report Author

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Wednesday, July 11, 2001