



Leicester
City Council

**WARDS AFFECTED
ALL WARDS (CORPORATE ISSUE)**

Cabinet

20th May 2002

**BEST VALUE REVIEW – HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION
PROGRESS REPORT**

**Report of Assistant Director (Highways & Transportation), Environment
Regeneration & Development**

1. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 Purpose of Report

To present the Interim Report of the Review to the Cabinet. The Highways & Transportation Scrutiny Committee and the Members Best Value Working Party have considered this report.

1.2 Background

The Highways and Transportation Review is a Year 2/3 Review which is to be completed within the Year 3 programme. The Fundamental Challenge, Final Scope and Routing for the Review report was agreed at Cabinet on 30th July, 2001, Directors' Board approved the Review Programme, and the Terms of Reference for Phase II of the Review at the meeting on 4th December, 2001.

It is now known that the Review will be inspected as part of the City Council's Comprehensive Performance Assessment.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Cabinet are recommended to approve the Interim Report;

3. REPORT

3.1 Interim Report

3.1.1 The aims of the Interim Report are to clearly set out the strategic case for the provision of Highways and Transportation services, clearly describe the services provided, report on the initial assessment of how the services are performing and to give a clear focus for the second phase of the Review.

- 3.1.2** The first section of the report assesses the strategic case for the provision of Highways and Transportation services and concludes that all existing services should continue to be provided.
- 3.1.3** In the second section of the report the strategic framework within Leicester City Council which guides the delivery of these services is explained. The service profile of the business units involved within the Review is covered in detail and areas of best practise are highlighted.
- 3.1.4** An initial assessment of how the service is performing in meeting its objectives, in meeting end service user expectations, in comparison with other providers and in being able to meet future needs is reported in the third section of the report. Section four summarises the findings of the initial performance assessment and draws out the key issues for the service to address.
- 3.1.5** Discussion around options for developing service delivery, together with the Terms of Reference for Phase II of the Review and the timetable for completion of main activities are covered in the final section. The Appendices to the report are given over to key data used in the performance assessment and the Briefs for the Task Groups addressing each of the six key issues identified as the focus for the next stage of the Review.

3.2 Programme

- 3.2.1** The Final Report of the Review was due to be presented to Directors' Board in June this year. However, since the Government announced its plans for a Comprehensive Performance Assessment of top tier Local Authorities it has become clear that the H&T Best Value Review will be inspected as part of the City Council's assessment.
- 3.2.2** Because of this, all paper work relating to the review is expected to be submitted to the Best Value Inspector at the end of May. This will mean that Members will not have sufficient time to scrutinise, adopt and support the proposed improvement plans prior to their submission to the Inspector. It is therefore intended that the Inspector will receive draft papers, which will be subject to ongoing scrutiny and further formal adoption within the City Council, probably going to Cabinet in September.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The budget for the review is currently set at £21,000 for staffing costs and £3,000 for the Independent Consultee and stakeholder input. However, It is estimated that the staffing costs for the lead officer will be £30,000 and £4,000 for the Independent Consultee. The service area is currently seeking to fund the shortfall.

5. CONSULTATION

A wide variety of stakeholders have been consulted during the development and delivery of services and during the work of the Review to date. The Interim Report has been presented to the Cabinet Lead for Highways and Transportation, Councillor Subedar, the Highways and Transportation Scrutiny Triumvirate, Unions, Peter Connolly the Director of Environment, Development & Commercial Services, and Mike Forrester the Scrutiny Director, and has been presented to staff, for consultation purposes during March/April.

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