



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All – Corporate Issue

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

Members Best Value Working Group
Cabinet
Council

15th May 2002
17th June 2002
11th July 2002

Best Value Performance Plan 2002/2003

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform Members of the content of the third Best Value Performance Plan.
- 1.2 To note the revised publication and distribution arrangements for the plan.

2. Summary

The government issued statutory instrument No. 2002/305 in March this year that made the following changes to the best value performance plan:

- To enable local authorities to publish their third plan up until the end of June 2002 and to allow for more accurate information to be included. Particularly financial information.
- To remove the need to include some information. (see para.4.2.)
- The need for authorities to carry out a best value review on all its services over a five year period is also removed.

3. Recommendations

Members of the cabinet are recommended to:

- 3.1 To endorse the full Best Value Performance Plan noting the government changes to the arrangements for publishing the plan and its contents.
- 3.2 Recommend the plan to Council.

4. Report

- 4.1 The performance plan will be published by the statutory deadline of the 30th June. It will be available on the council's Internet and Intranet sites. The text for the plan has been written by departments and is attached for your information (note the financial information is not

currently available but will be included in the final Plan which will be issued prior to the meeting). The audit of the performance plan and performance indicators will form part of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment. A final production version of the plan containing all performance information will be issued to members by the deadline of 30th June.

4.2 As last year's plan received a good assessment from the District Auditor, the format of the document has not significantly changed. Chapter 1 sets out the achievements of the Council over the last year and includes information included in the Annual Report of the Chief Executive. All information about Best Value is brought together in chapter 3. The Residents Survey information reported in chapter 4 and including information about the Public Service Agreement being included in chapter 5 are additions to the plan. There is no longer a requirement to include the chapters about how the Council carries out consultation and how it uses its resources, so these have been deleted.

4.3 The Statutory Instrument makes it clear that the audience for the full plan is staff, members, partners and organizations that have links with the Council. The plan is in its third year of production and it is proposed to reduce the specification for the plan so that Creativity Works can produce it in house. The distribution of the plan has also been reduced to reflect the take up of last year and to comply with our EMAS policy. It will mean producing only 500 paper copies with others available on CD ROM and on the Council's Internet and Intranet sites.

4.4 The summary of the plan, 4 pages of LINK, will be delivered to all households in the City at the end of June. The last Residents Survey found that only 9% of people could remember seeing the summary of the plan. Being produced as part of the LINK magazine could improve readership.

5. Financial and Legal Implications

The arrangements to reduce the specification for the plan, the limited the circulation of the printed version of the full plan and to have the summary to all households delivered as part of LINK, make the estimated cost of the project to be approximately £13,000. This sum has been included in the budget provision for 2002/03.

Report Author/Officer to contact:

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