

**BEST VALUE SUB COMMITTEE held at 7.30 pm at COUNCIL  
OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on 30 JANUARY 2001**

Present:- Councillor R J O'Neill – Vice-Chairman in the Chair  
Councillors Mrs C A Cant, R P Chambers, Mrs D Cornell,  
R W L Stone and P A Wilcock.

Also present at the Chairman's invitation:- Councillor D M Miller

Officers in attendance:- Mrs E Forbes, R Chamberlain, J B Dickson, B D  
Perkins and M T Purkiss.

BV24

**CORPORATE HEALTH BVPI SURVEY**

Mr Gavin Ellison from ORC International gave a presentation to Members on the results of the Corporate Health Best Value Performance Indicators Survey. The Survey had been undertaken at the end of last year and Uttlesford had joined a consortium of Essex Authorities which had commissioned ORC International to undertake the research work.

Mr Ellison explained that, in terms of overall satisfaction, 70% had said that they were satisfied with the way the Council ran things. This was the fourth highest of the eleven Essex Authorities in the consortium.

Uttlesford was the joint highest in the consortium for waste collection overall, the joint highest for the reliability aspect of waste collection and the highest for street cleanliness. Uttlesford was also the highest in the consortium for the recycling service and received the joint highest rating for Environmental Services.

64% of the respondents said that they were kept well informed and this was the second highest rating in the consortium.

However, sports and leisure facilities received the lowest satisfaction rating in the Essex consortium. The Chief Executive drew attention to the PFI project which it was hoped would provide new leisure centres at Great Dunmow and Stansted Mountfitchet and an enhanced leisure centre at Saffron Walden by the Spring of 2002.

Copies of the presentation would be circulated to all Members in due course.

Members thanked Mr Ellison for his excellent presentation and he then left the meeting.

BV25

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2000 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**BV26 BUSINESS ARISING****(i) Minute BV19 – Best Value Performance Consultation**

The Committee and PR Manager reported on progress with the surveys for housing, planning and housing benefit. The surveys were being undertaken by SMSR Limited and would be the subject of separate reports.

**(ii) Trading Activities**

In response to a question from Councillor O'Neill, Officers agreed to provide comparative information concerning Abbey Gardens, Bury St Edmunds.

**(iii) Communications**

Members noted that the Corporate Health Survey had provided a list of many persons willing to be involved in further consultation and it was possible that this could be used to help establish a Citizens' Panel. Officers were asked to examine the cost effectiveness of using a Citizens' Panel for further Best Value research compared with the cost of commissioning research companies to undertake this work. At the last meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee, it had been suggested that the issue of Citizens' Panels, Focus Groups Surveys and Questionnaires and Citizens' Juries be referred to the Organisation Joint Working Party. The Sub-Committee felt that these issues should be debated by a wider group of Members and it was

RECOMMENDED that the above issues be referred direct to the Policy and Resources Committee.

**(iv) Best Value Inspection**

It was noted that the Best Value inspection for Housing would be undertaken during the week commencing 12 February 2001.

**(v) Minute BV22 – Best Value Surveys**

Members said that they had been pleased with the work undertaken and had welcomed the presentation given by ORC International. It was suggested that it might be useful to obtain some comparative information from some other county consortia and Officers would pursue this further.

**BV27 HOUSING BEST VALUE REVIEW - ACTION PLAN**

Members considered a detailed action plan which had emerged from the Housing Best Value Review 2000/01 which it was proposed would be submitted to the Best Value inspectors. Details of the Action Plan had been submitted to the last meeting of the Sub-Committee where it had been recommended for approval. Following that meeting, the Action Plan had been approved by the Policy and

Resources Committee and the Housing Services Sub-Committee on 23 January 2001.

An inspection of the Housing Service as a whole, which would include the Housing Review, would be carried out during the week commencing 12 February 2001. It was likely that the inspectors would wish to speak to some Members, Officers and Tenants about the housing services provided by the Council.

RESOLVED that the 2000/01 Housing Action Plan be confirmed subject to minor changes to text, and made available to the Housing Inspectors.

## **BV28 BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2001/02 – UPDATE**

Members noted that the Best Value Performance Plan for 2001/02 was due for publication by the end of March this year. The Chief Executive explained that Chapters 1 and 2 were broadly similar to last year and Chapters 3 and 6 contained substantial amounts of new and updated information. Also, an attempt had been made to group objectives and priorities more tightly. It was noted that financial information was still to be added and some of this would not be available until after the budget meeting on 13 February 2001.

Members received a summary of the discussion and Members' comments from the workshop which had been held on 17 January 2001 and the issues arising from the IDeA report.

There had been particular discussion at the workshop on the IDeA's proposal of working more closely with all parties on the future of Stansted Airport. The question had been raised as to whether the Council should take a more active role in encouraging a fair and informed debate on the future of the airport. This theme had also been discussed at the Members' Seminar on 29 January 2001. It was agreed that there should be an additional key issue for the Council in 2001/02, namely, "to encourage public debate about the future of aviation and its potential impact on Uttlesford".

Members then considered the text of the draft Best Value Performance Plan in some detail and made a number of amendments to the text. A complete draft of the Plan would be submitted to all Members with attention being drawn to the amendments which had been made at this meeting.

RESOLVED that the draft Best Value Performance Plan be noted and amended as agreed at the meeting and that a further draft be submitted to all Members for consideration at the Policy and Resources Committee on 13 February 2001 for approval by the Council on 27 February 2001.

The meeting ended at 10.10pm