

Committee: COUNCIL
Date: 22 JUNE 2004
Agenda Item No: 2
Title: BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2004-2005
Author: Ian Orton (01799) 510402

Summary

- 1 Under Section 6 of the Local Government Act 1999 the Council is required to produce a Best Value Performance Plan. The Best Value Performance Plan should be available for public inspection by 30 June 2004.
- 2 This report contains details of the content Best Value Performance Plan and a draft copy of the Plan will be circulated to Members by Friday 18 June 2004.

Background

- 3 The Council is now into Year Five of Best Value and as part of this process the authority is required to produce a Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) by 30 June 2004. Best Value has been fine tuned during the last four years and the current changes to the BVPP are the most radical. The format of the BVPP is linked to the scoring mechanism from the CPA so Excellent and Good authorities are required to produce less information than Fair, Weak or Poor authorities. The main differences are in the production of a plan to improve the performance of the individual council.
- 4 As a Fair authority Uttlesford are required to include within our BVPP:
 - A summary of the strategic objectives and priorities of the authority
 - Arranging for addressing the improvement priorities of the authority
 - Details of past, current, and planned performance
 - Brief statement of contracts awarded during the year, involving a transfer of staff
 - Information about the publication and distribution of the BVPP
- 5 The BVPP is subject to external audit by District Audit and the CPA Team within District Audit.
- 6 To meet the above criteria the BVPP for 2004-2005 has been produced to include the following information:

Summary of the strategic objectives and priorities of the authority

The strategic objectives of the authority are now the nine themes within the Quality of Life Corporate Plan. These nine underpin the high priorities of the authority and also assist in clearly identifying what are low priorities. In

addition Uttlesford has a mission statement and five shared priorities that are the basis of the Community Plan. There is overlap between the Quality of Life Corporate Plan and the Community Plan but that is now common among local authorities because of similar priorities being shared at corporate and community levels.

Arrangements for addressing the improvement priorities of the authority

This section seeks evidence that the authority has identified any concerns raised by the CPA process and how the authority plans to build on strengths and correct weaknesses. The Improvement Plan covers the period 2004 – 2006 and consists of 34 areas where the authority needs to demonstrate that we are getting better. Linked to this section are the outcomes that will flow from this improvement process. Once Uttlesford becomes a Good authority, under CPA this section is dropped from the BVPP.

Details of past, current and planned performance.

This section consists of the Best Value Performance Indicators, un-audited out turns for 2003-04, the Uttlesford Performance Management system for 2003-04 and target improvements for 2004-5, 2005-6 and 2006-07. This section is probably the most relevant within the BVPP. Best Value is now all about performance and this data measures Uttlesford both in terms of our own improvement and how we compare against others. Members will note from the draft BVPP that the Performance Management system for 2004-05 is much more robust in measuring costs against performance.

Details of contracts awarded during the year

No relevant contracts were awarded during 2003-04

Publication and distribution of the BVPP

The BVPP is on a tight timetable owing to the collection of the Performance Indicators and this year the link with the CPA process. Council are requested to agree the content and targets within the BVPP on 22 June to meet the publication deadline of 30 June 2004. To date the process is on target.

- 7 As mentioned above a draft copy of the BVPP will be circulated to Members by Friday 18 June 2004. The presentation to Council on 22 June 2004 will consist of a short PowerPoint presentation followed by an opportunity for Members to discuss the current and future performance of the Council.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1 The Council agree the Best Value Performance Plan for 2004-2005
- 2 The Council agree the Targets for the Best Value Performance Indicators for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07
- 3 The Council agree the Targets for the Uttlesford Performance Management system for 2004-06

4 The Council agree the Improvement Plan for 2004 – 2006

Background Papers: Best Value Performance Files 2004-05

Committee: COUNCIL
Date: 22 June 2004
Agenda Item No: 3
Title: UTTLESFORD LOCAL PLAN – MODIFICATIONS
Author: Melanie Jones (01799) 510461

Summary

- 1 This report seeks Members' approval for the proposed modifications to the Uttlesford Local Plan. The report has been approved by the Environment Committee on 8 June subject to two amendments. These are:

Modification 32, page 24 Policy GEN7 line1 – delete the word 'significant'.
Modifications 85 and 86, para 6.20 and Policy H8 - delete the words-'up to'.

Background

- 2 The Local Plan Inquiry into objections to the Uttlesford Local Plan was held in May/June 2003. The Inspector's report was received in February this year. In his report the Inspector makes recommendations in response to the outstanding objections to the Deposit and Revised Deposit Plans.
- 3 On the basis of the Inspector's report a revised plan has been prepared which is attached to this report (Appendix 1 and 1A) These indicate the proposed modifications to the text and maps in the Revised Deposit Plan. Deletions are shown as a strike through and new text is highlighted. Also attached is a list of the Inspector's recommendations, which it is proposed that the Council does not intend to accept (Appendix 2). Once the modifications are approved the Council, in accordance with legislation, has to prepare three documents, which are then made available for public inspection and comment for a period of six weeks. It is proposed that this period should commence on 22 July 2004 The three documents are:
- A statement of the proposed modifications, which materially affect the content of the plan. Non-material changes and other consequential amendments are not included as modifications.
 - A statement of the Council's decisions in relation to each of the Inspector's recommendations.
 - A list of the Inspector's recommendations, which the Council does not intend to accept and the reasons for these decisions.

- 4 At the end of the six week consultation period Members will consider any objections and representations of support for the proposed modifications. Providing there are no material objections leading to a second inquiry the Plan can then be adopted early in 2005.

RECOMMENDED that Council approves the proposed modifications to the Plan, subject to the changes agreed by the Environment Committee on 8 June and authorises officers to prepare the statutory documents required for public consultation.

Background Papers: Inspector's Report and Addendum letter dated 7 April 2004

