

Best Value Review Programme
Performance Select Committee, item 7

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| Committee: | Performance Select Committee | Agenda Item |
| Date: | 14 June 2006 | 7 |
| Title: | Best Value Review Programme | |
| Author: | Ted Fennell, Performance Improvement Manager, 01799 510587 | Item for decision |

Summary

The report recommends a different approach to Best Value Reviews (BVRs) using Uttlesford District Council’s Organisational Re-engineering (OR) programme.

Recommendations

The Committee endorse the approach as outlined in this report.

Background Papers

ODPM Local Government Act 1999: Part 1 Best Value and Performance Improvement, ODPM Circular 03/2003, Guidance on Best Value Performance Plans, February 2004, Delivering Efficiency in Local Services – Further Guidance for Local Authorities.

Integrated Customer Management Progress Report, 9 February 2006, Operations Committee.

Impact

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Communication/Consultation | Updates and key milestones of the OR programme will be regularly reported to the Performance Select Committee |
| Community Safety | There are no explicit community safety implications |
| Equalities | There are no explicit equalities implications |
| Finance | The OR programme has been given full financial approval |
| Human Rights | There are no explicit human rights implications |
| Legal implications | There are no explicit legal implications |
| Ward-specific impacts | All |
| Workforce/Workplace | There are no explicit workforce/workplace implications |

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Situation

1. Statutory Instrument 2002/305 removed the requirement for all council services to be reviewed within a 5 year programme. ODPM Circular 03/2003 sets out that authorities still have a duty to review all functions, but that they should focus reviews on priority areas arising from their CPAs and other considerations.
2. Uttlesford District Council still has a duty to review all functions under the best value regime in accordance with revisions made to legislation by ODPM Circular 03/2003 and Statutory Instrument 2002/305
3. By June 2005, Uttlesford District Council had undertaken 21 Best Value Reviews of the following services:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Housing | Housing - Homelessness |
| Trading Accounts | Street Cleansing |
| Grants | Planning |
| Communications | Day Centres |
| Political Support and Member Service | Refuse and Recycling |
| Community Safety | Revenues |
| Health | Older People |
| Corporate Services | Young People |
| Warden Services | Access to Services |
| Legal Services | Environmental Health |
| Leisure Services | |

4. From the original eight year programme 2000-2008 the Council was also due to review the following services:

| Review | Year |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Communications | 2005/06 |
| Financial Services | 2005/06 |
| Housing Management | 2005/06 |
| Building Surveying | 2005/06 |
| Leisure Centres | 2006/07 |
| IT | 2006/07 |
| Partnership Working | 2006/07 |
| Members Services | 2006/07 |

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| Asset Management | 2007/08 |
| Museums Services | 2007/08 |
| Sheltered Housing | 2007/08 |
| Democratic Services | 2007/08 |

5. The original 2000-2008 BVR roll-out was halted in 2005/06. This was in acknowledgement that the burgeoning OR programme implementation was council-wide and would extensively review all services. Accordingly, EMT on 23 May 2006 took a decision to use OR methodology for future reviews, with every service being reviewed over a period of 30 months.
6. Notwithstanding the aforementioned, it should be noted that:
 - Building Surveying - an intensive annual ISO9001 Management Review was conducted during 2005/06
 - Communications – a traditional Best Value Review will be conducted by the Communications Manager during 2006/07

Risk Analysis

| Risk | Likelihood | Impact | Mitigating actions |
|--|------------|--------|--|
| Best Value (Fundamental Services) Reviews not programmed or adequately conducted | Low | High | Effective service reviews will be scheduled into the OR roll-out programme |