

PHASE 2 BEST VALUE PILOT REVIEWS

Accountable Officer: Laura McGillivray (Head of Policy and Communications)

Author: Laura McGillivray (Head of Policy and Communications) - MK252665

1. Purpose

1.1 To introduce the interim reports from Phase 2 Review Groups and propose an approach to completing them.

2. Summary

2.1 This Council is now carrying out its second set of reviews and considerable learning has resulted.

2.2 The deadline for completion of reviews was set at Christmas so that final reports could be submitted to the January meeting, it is anticipated that these will not all be fully completed.

3. Recommendations

3.1 Given that the period January to March is critical as a preparatory period prior to the beginning of the new financial year and the commencement of the statutory Performance Plan, it is recommended that reviews conclude in January in order to:

- (a) consolidate learning and modify the review guide; and
- (b) enable staff to begin to prepare for the Year 1 reviews, and that final reports for each review are brought to the 17 January 2000 meeting of the Sub-Committee

4. **Background**

- 4.1 The Local Government Act 1999 requires local authorities to publish Performance Plans by 31 March 2000 which include a 5 year programme of Best Value reviews covering all Council services. Authorities have been urged to run 'pilot' reviews to prepare for their statutory obligations.
- 4.2 This Council is now carrying out its second set of reviews and considerable learning has resulted.
- 4.3 The deadline for completion of reviews was set at Christmas so that final reports could be submitted to the January meeting, it is anticipated that these will not all be fully completed.

5. **Issues and Choices**

5.1 **Annexed** to this report are interim reports from each Phase 2 Best Value Pilot:

- (a) School Support Services (**Annex A**)
- (b) Property (**Annex B**)
- (c) Transport (**Annex C**)
- (d) Out of Hours Services (**Annex D**)
- (e) Customer Contact (**Annex E**)

It is anticipated from the regular monitoring and support sessions that are held that not all reviews will be fully completed by Christmas.

5.2 Given that the period January to March is critical as a preparatory period prior to the beginning of the new financial year and the commencement of the statutory Performance Plan, it is recommended that reviews conclude in January in order to:

- (a) consolidate learning and modify the review guide; and
- (b) enable staff to begin to prepare for the Year 1 reviews and that final reports for each review are brought to the 17 January 2000 meeting of the Sub-Committee

6. **Implications**

6.1 Environmental

These are included in Best Value reviews.

6.2 Equalities

These are included in Best Value reviews.

6.3 Financial

These are included in Best Value reviews.

6.4 Legal

The proposed steps enable the Council to comply with the Local Government Act 1999.

6.5 Staff and Accommodation

These are included in Best Value reviews.

7. **Conclusions**

7.1 Progress is being made on the Best Value Phase 2 reviews but their speedy completion is essential to our preparations for year 1 of the Statutory Best Value Reviews.

Background Papers: Local Government Act 1999