

PHASE 2 BEST VALUE PILOT REVIEWS

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1. Purpose

1.1 To present the terms of reference and project plans for each of the phase 2 pilot reviews for the Sub-Committee's approval.

2. Summary

2.1 Terms of reference and project plans for each of the phase 2 Best Value pilot reviews have been drafted by the five review teams.

3. Recommendations

3.1 That the terms of reference and project plans for each review be agreed.

4. **Background**

- 4.1 The Local Government Act 1999 requires all local authorities to devise a programme of Best Value reviews and to publish it in the Local Performance Plan. The programme will have to cover all council functions over a five-year cycle.
- 4.2 In preparation for this, four Best Value pilot service reviews were commenced in November 1998. A programme of phase two pilot reviews is now beginning.

5. **Issues and Choices**

- 5.1 The five best value phase 2 pilot reviews are each led by a chief officer and cover the following functions:
- (a) **Support Services for Schools (Annex A)** Lead officer - Howard Miller
 - (b) **Transport (Annex B)** Lead officer - David Jones
 - (c) **Property (Annex C)** Lead officer - Penny Coveney
 - (d) **Out of Hours (Annex D)** Lead Officer - Jill Stansfield
 - (e) **Reception Facilities (Annex E)** Lead officer - John Best
- 5.2 The phase 2 reviews are more complex than those in phase 1 in that they relate to functions that cut across budget areas.
- 5.3 The deadline for the completion of reviews is the end of December 1999. A final report and action plan will then be reported to the first meeting of the Best Value/CCT Sub-Committee in 2000.
- 5.4 The terms of reference for each review and a project plan for completion within the timescale are attached as **Annexes** to this report.
- 5.5 In approving these members will want to be assured that the scope of each review is clear and that project plans show how the review will be completed to schedule.

6. **Implications**

6.1 Environmental

The review guidance to which the reviews will be working includes an environmental impact checklist.

6.2 Equalities

The review guidance to which the reviews will be working includes a requirement to consider equalities dimensions.

6.3 Financial

The phase 2 reviews may identify potential for efficiency savings.

6.4 Legal

The Local Government Act requires all local authorities to devise a programme of Best Value reviews and to publish it in the local Performance Plan. The programme will have to cover all council functions over a five-year cycle, beginning in April 2000.

6.5 Staff and Accommodation

Best Value reviews will make considerable demands on staff time.

7. **Conclusions**

7.1 The phase 2 reviews are underway and clear terms of reference need to be approved.

Background Papers: None