

Committee **Cabinet**

Date: **15 July 2005**

Title: **Best Value Review Programme 2005– 2007**

From: **Director of Law and Performance Management**

Purpose: **To agree the programme of best value reviews**

Recommendation

The Cabinet is recommended to agree the Best Value review programme for 2005 - 2007

1. Financial appraisal

1.1 The proposed programme of Best Value reviews will be delivered within available budget. The total budget for 2005/2007 for best value and scrutiny activities is £248,000. The budget also supports the work of Health Overview and Scrutiny although our partners in the boroughs and districts made a contribution of £5,400 to the overall costs last year.

2. Introduction

2.1. It is the practice for the Cabinet to agree a programme of best value reviews preceding the start of the programme. In March 2003 the Cabinet agreed a three year programme of reviews which took into account the outcomes of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA). The programme for the year 2003/2004 has been completed.

2.2 The programme for 2005/2007 has been revised in order to accommodate existing work already being undertaken which needs to be continued, in particular, work on promoting sustainable communities. The programme also reflects changes to scrutiny structures post election and now better focuses on key areas where a review is regarded as beneficial in supporting improvement work.

3. The Best Value Review Programme for 2005/2007 proposals

3.1 The identified reviews are proposed after consideration of departmental improvement activities and consideration of the Council's Improvement Plan. The number of reviews per year remains the same so that members and scrutiny support officers' time can be effectively and efficiently used between the more extensive best value reviews and more intensive and shorter scrutiny activities.

3.2 The scope of Best Value reviews in this two year programme continues to have an emphasis on looking more directly at the needs and demands of residents of East Sussex. Reviews will complement any external inspections of services arising from the Comprehensive Performance Assessment work.

3.3 This approach is centred initially on consultation and comparison. The ability to deliver better services will then be measured through the competition and challenge elements of the best value process.

Review Area	2005-2006	2006 - 2007
<p>Feasibility of a Joint Waste Authority</p> <p>(Review to look at possibilities and involve Districts and Boroughs – to begin July 2005)</p>	●	
<p>Increasing local provision for adults with learning disabilities</p> <p>(Review PID already created and agreed – Review to start in July 2005)</p>	●	
<p>Promoting sustainable communities</p> <p>(Phase one of BV review completed and findings reported – Phase 2 to begin January 2006)</p>		●
<p>Children’s Services -</p> <p>(A review whose scope and specific area will be decided within the next month)</p>		●

4.0 Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation

4.1 The Audit & Best Value Scrutiny Committee approved the proposed review programme for 2005/2007 at its meeting on 24 June 2005.

4.2 The Cabinet are recommended to agree the programme of Best Value reviews which aims to support the Council priorities for improvement.

Andrew Ogden,
Director of Law and Performance

Contact Officer:
Roger B. Howarth,
Scrutiny & Best Value Co-ordinator. 01273 481327
roger.howarth@eastsussex.gov.uk