

Report title: **Best Value Indicator Targets for 2007/08 - 2009/10**

Report of: **Justin Holliday ACE Policy, Performance, Partnerships and Communications**

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Report for:** Key Decision

### 1. Purpose

1.1 To present proposed 3 year targets for review by Members before targets are published in the Council Plan in accordance with our statutory duty.

### 2. Introduction by Executive Member for Organisational Development and Performance Management (Cllr Dhiren Basu)

2.1 The council is required to publish its performance against the best value performance indicators and to set three year targets for these indicators. These are attached for consideration. The indicator and targets are to be published at the end of April with the Council Plan 2007-10

2.3 We need to work hard on these targets; they are a good way of driving up performance as we can clearly see which areas need assistance and focus.

### 3. Recommendations

3.1 That Members agree the proposed targets for the Best Value performance indicators.

**Report authorised by: Dr Ita O'Donovan – Chief Executive**

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### Head of Legal Services Comments

The legal implications are stated in the main report.

#### **4. Executive Summary**

4.1 It is a statutory requirement for Local Authorities to publish performance and 3 year targets against the Government's Best Value indicators.

4.2 The statutory deadline for publishing this performance information is the end of June but this year we have brought forward the timescales to align with the publication of the Council Plan.

4.3 There are 157 Best Value indicators and 13 key local measures included in Appendix 1. Many of these are used in the various assessments of the Council.

4.4 Each year we review targets to ensure that they are realistic but challenging, that they can be delivered within the Financial Strategy and put us on a path of continuous improvement.

4.5 Of the 125 indicators where it was appropriate to make comparisons, 96 targets have been set to deliver improvement. For an additional 14 indicators targets have been set for performance to remain at the same level.

4.6 Three year targets will be published in the Council Plan by the end of April.

#### **5. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)**

5.1 None

#### **6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

##### **The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:**

ODPM Circular 05/2006- Guidance on Best Value Performance Plans

Service Business Plans including provisional outturn information for Best Value Performance Indicators and 3 year targets.

#### **Strategic Implications**

It is a statutory requirement to set and publish 3 year targets for Best Value performance indicators. These targets set the benchmark for our performance in the coming year.

They have been set to drive improvement in line with the council's vision and priority of providing excellent services.

#### **Financial Implications**

The 3 year targets have been considered as deliverable within the Council's Financial Strategy.

#### **Legal Implications**

The Local Government Act 1999 requires that local authorities publish provisional outturn information and set three year targets against the Best Value Performance Indicators.

#### **Equalities Implications**

Equalities is a central thread throughout the council's performance and equalities indicators are included in both the business plans and the council's scorecard. Targets for these measures ensure that there are no adverse implications for service users or our staff.

## **Consultation**

Business unit Heads and Lead Members have been consulted on these targets through the business planning process.

## **7. Background**

7.1 It is still a statutory requirement for Local Authorities to publish performance against the Best Value indicators and set 3 year targets for these. We normally publish this information in June as required by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Targets are set for 3 years in the business plans and published each year in our Corporate/Council Plan.

7.2 The timescale for setting these targets has been brought forward this year to align with the timescale of publishing the Council Plan by the end of April. This has meant that targets have been set on the basis of provisional outturns and that there may be some minor changes to the 2006/07 outturns and targets as data is finalised.

7.3 In line with the Council's vision and our priority to deliver excellent services, targets are aimed at moving services towards upper quartile performance. Our aim is to set challenging but realistic targets deliverable within the Council's financial strategy.

7.4 Progress against targets is reviewed as part of the mid year pre- business plan review. In previous years we have also reviewed targets at the end of the financial year in light of performance outturns and latest comparative data.

## **8 Three Year Targets**

8.1 Appendix one sets out the proposed 3 year targets for the Best Value performance indicators. These are also the indicators that feed into a number of assessments by various Inspectorates and are used to judge our performance in the annual Comprehensive Performance Assessment.

8.2 For 96 of the indicators the targets for 2007/08 show improvement on 2006/07 performance. Some of these areas are:

- Employment, Education and training for care leavers
- Pupils achieving 5 GCSE's A-G or equivalent including English and Maths
- Participation in and outcomes from Youth work
- Average time for processing benefit claims
- Planning appeals allowed against the authority's decision to refuse
- Street and environmental cleanliness
- % of household waste composted

4.7 For an additional 14 indicators targets have been set for performance to remain at the same level.

4.8 For 11 of the key local indicators the targets for 2007/08 show improvement on 2006/07 performance including call centre telephone answering and dealing with Members' enquiries.

The Best Value indicators along with key local indicators and their 3 year targets are contained in Appendix 1 for your consideration.