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REPORT TO: CORPORATE SERVICES  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM: 6 (b)

DATE OF MEETING: 22<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2001

CATEGORY:  
DELEGATED/

REPORT FROM: CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT: TERRY NEAVES (5800)

DOC:

SUBJECT: BEST VALUE REVIEW  
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT &  
CONTROL: PROGRESS

REF:

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

TERMS OF REFERENCE:

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### 1. Recommendations

1.1 Members are asked to note the good progress made against the action points identified within this Best Value Review.

### 2. Purpose of Report

2.1 To update members on progress against the action plan identified within the Best Value Review for Financial Management & Control

### 3. Background

3.1 The Finance and Management Committee, held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2001, approved the Best Value Report on Financial Management & Control along with the accompanying action plan.

3.2 The Action Plan for this Review is set out in Annex A. This also identifies the considerable progress made against the key actions within the review.

3.3 In particular the review focussed on the need to introduced a new service and financial planning regime for the Council. This is set out in Annex B.

3.4 A lot of effort has been devoted to putting the new regime in place beginning in this financial year. This is evidenced by the production of the Council's first Corporate Plan, considered by Finance and Management on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2001. In addition clear and precise guidance and training has been given to Divisional Managers for the Service Plans they will present during the November cycle of Committees.

3.5 Another key task was to ensure that the Council's accounts are closed within the Statutory Timescales. This was achieved well in advance of previous years and reflects a considerable level of commitment on all of those involved.

3.6 The Action Plan has been affected slightly by the resignation of the Finance Services Manager, who was replaced recently by Mr Kevin Stackhouse. This has lead to some delay in implementing the timetable for the new Financial Information System. Mr Stackhouse will be reviewing this timetable to assess whether the key dates are still achievable.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

4.1 The key issue identified in the Best Value Review with direct financial implications is the replacement of the Council's financial information system.

4.2 The Capital Programme makes provision for its replacement.

#### **5. Conclusions**

5.1 Overall good progress has been made towards putting the building blocks in place to achieve Sound Financial Management & Control.

#### **6. Background Papers**

6.1 Best Value Review Report: Financial Management & Control.

**Terry Neaves**  
**Chief Finance Officer**  
**11<sup>th</sup> October 2001**