
REPORT TO:	FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM:	7
DATE OF MEETING:	24 JULY 2003	CATEGORY:	RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER	OPEN	
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	KEVIN STACKHOUSE (595811) CHRIS SWAIN (595812)	DOC:	u/ks/bestvalue/cttee sum 24-07-03
SUBJECT:	FINANCIAL SERVICES BEST VALUE REVIEW – FINAL REPORT AND ACTION PLAN	REF:	
WARD(S) AFFECTED	All	TERMS OF REFERENCE:	FM13

1.0 Recommendation

- 1.1 That the Committee considers the Best Value Review of Financial Services and approves the recommendations as set out within the action plans.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To inform committee of the outcome of the Best Value Review of Financial Services.

3.0 Detail

Best Value

- 3.1 All Councils have a duty to review all their services over a five-year period in accordance with the principles of Best Value.
- 3.2 The Council has drawn up a programme of Best Value Reviews that achieves this purpose.
- 3.3 Over time the Council has developed a framework, which helps to set an approach to undertaking these reviews.
- 3.4 Essentially the framework sets out to ensure that there is a rigorous assessment of the service, which concludes with a clear improvement plan, setting out how the service can develop over the next 2-3 years.

Financial Services Review

- 3.5 This review covers Financial Services, which has been split into two parts i.e.

Finance Services

- Accountancy & Exchequer services
- Treasury Management Services
- Internal Audit

Revenue Services

- Council Tax and Business Rates (Revenue) Collection
- Administration of Housing Benefits

- 3.6 **Attached to this report is the Executive Summary, which brings together the outcome of these reviews. The detailed review is attached in a separate document.**

The Review Process

- 3.7 In accordance with the Council's Best Value Process the report has been considered by: -

- Corporate Best Value Review Team
- Scrutiny Committee

- 3.8 This was to ensure that the review had been carried out in accordance with the process and to incorporate any key issues that these groups wished to raise. This has been done.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 None stemming directly from this review, although the recommendations aim to improve further the way financial services support the financial management of the council.

5.0 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 Finance Services in particular, impact upon almost every service area across the Council, and the outcome of this review will hopefully benefit the Authority overall.

6.0 Community Implications

- 6.1 Revenue Services provide a vital service to the local community, and hopefully, the outcome of this review will help to improve the future service provided to them.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 Overall the report provides a sound basis for developing further the financial services of the council.

8.0 Background Papers

None