

South Derbyshire District Council

Best Value for Development Control

Implementation Plan

Issues underlying this plan derive from:

- Government's Best Value agenda and targets
- Government's e-government agenda
- Current circumstances facing the Council
- Best Value Report by South Derbyshire District Council team
- Best Value Report by Audit Com. Inspectors
- The Council's Modernising Agenda.

These are often interrelated and interdependent. The issues are:

CONTEXTUAL

- The Best Value regime as required by Government policy/procedures/targets/monitoring
- The Council is resource bound and reprioritising its service delivery
- Partnership working is a principal focus for Service improvement but the review was judged to be weak on challenge and competition.
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CORPORATE

- Linkages with Corporate and Community Plans are not yet in place and not informing planning policy formulation
- The decision making regime is changing (Modernising)
- Mechanisms and outcomes of resource re-allocation across the Council are not yet in place
- Performance Management is not yet in place across the Council
- Staff development system has no training regime established and agreed yet
- Linkages to join up services are embryonic
- Linkages with corporate objectives are not clear or well made
- Partnership working outside the Council is embryonic
- Accessibility of the internet is embryonic

INVOLVEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY

- The adequacy of consultation procedures is challenged
- The clarity and accessibility of information is challenged
- There is an increased interest in becoming involved in policy formulation and procedure
- There is an increased desire to be influential in better informed Development Control decision making.

RESOURCES IN DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

- Overheads appear to be high
- There are shortcomings in the accounting mechanism required to reveal this
- Resources to meet requirements and to achieve change will be strictly rationed
- Staff development is crucial to meeting the requirements of Best Value
- Joined up and partnership working is important

- Expanded service delivery is necessary to demonstrate Best Value.

PERFORMANCE

- Monitoring and reporting is inadequately developed
- Policy documents and guidance notes are challenged for their relevance and clarity, particularly in areas such as sustainability
- Maintaining high levels of output with existing low staff levels is challenged as high risk
- Joining up delivery and working in partnership is required to meet Best Value
- Use of internet for/by stakeholders is embryonic

Vision/Overall Objective

Where we want to be

What character of organisation shall we be?

- Responsive
- Fair
- Open/transparent
- Accessible in terms of availability and equality of opportunity

What level of delivery do we aim for?

- Effective
- Efficient (affordable)
- Co-ordinated and joined up with other services internally and externally (Closing loops)
- Consistent
- Championing environmental issues particularly sustainability*
- Well monitored*

The 1st four of these delivery aims represent improvement to the existing service. The last two marked * represent a shift to new ground.

Objectives/Policy

How to get there

WE will:

1. Respond to the Best Value agenda as pro-actively as possible
2. Rationalise corporate resources so as to impact/diminish service capability as little as possible
3. Reflect the upcoming Corporate and Community Plans in as joined up a way as possible
4. Use the Modernising agenda to delegate policy compliant decisions to officers whilst reserving policy and controversial decisions to Members
5. Implement performance management as per the corporate model
6. Target staff development to service delivery
7. Pursue joined up thinking in service delivery
8. Develop consultation to encompass service delivery as well as within process
9. Provide additional opportunity for community involvement in decision making
10. Influence development of accounting systems to report comprehensively with minimal manual manipulation

11. Ration resources to achieve joined up outputs
12. Actively develop partnerships where possible
13. Prepare and present Local Plan review to committee as soon as possible after July 2001 and project manage delivery thereafter
14. Involve stake holders in customer charter and review of Supplementary Planning Guidance to make it more accessible to users
15. Pursue Sustainability as major priority in development
16. Exploit opportunities for electronic transfer of information
17. Influence the evolution of policy by reference to experience of its implementation.

22/5/01

