

BEST VALUE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Monday 15 July 2002

PRESENT:

Councillor STANLEY (Chairman) Councillor TUTT (Deputy Chairman) and Councillors Mrs HOWLETT, MARSDEN and SKILTON.

3. **MINUTES.** The minutes of the meeting held on 27 May 2002 were submitted and approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

4. **LIFELINE BEST VALUE REVIEW - PROGRESS REPORT.** The Committee considered the report of the Lifeline and Sheltered Services Manager regarding the progress of the Lifeline Best Value Review. Members were advised that Scrutiny would be asked to consider in principle the establishment of a joint venture when the draft report is presented at Scrutiny Committee on 25 July 2002. Cabinet would discuss the final report in August 2002. Members discussed the timetable for the implementation plan following approval by Council, and the ways in which the consultation results would be feedback once a decision had been made on the results of the review.

NOTED.

5. **CROSS COUNTY REVIEW OF EMERGENCY PLANNING.** The Committee consider the report of the Strategic Development Officer regarding the progress out the County Review of Emergency Planning.

Members were informed that East Sussex County Council were administering the review, which was being carried out following a version of the PRINCE project management approach. The Project Manager and the Chairman of the Project board were both from the County Council.

Members noted that the review of Emergency Planning was being carried out on a countywide basis. To date there had been agreement of the Project Implementation Document, which was appended to the report, and some evidence gathering. The Review was on track to present a final report to Members in February 2003.

NOTED.

6. **BEST VALUE REVIEWS.** The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Development Officer summarising the Best Value Review methodology, the Best Value Review Timetable and present timetable for reports to this Committee.

Members noted that the Best Value Timetable had been considerably reduced, the benefits being as follows:

- § Reviews more recognisable by the public;
- § Reduces number of reports and committees;
- § More cross cutting, challenging approach;
- § Maximises benefits from BV I inspections;

§ Concentrates on strategic decisions;

§ Greater input and guidance from Members, CMT, Financial Management and Strategic Development.

In addition the reduction in reviews was in accordance with recommendations of District Audit and the Best Value Inspectorate as well as being consistent with the white paper that recognised the reduction nationally in the numbers of best value reviews and stated that “further measures would be introduced to reinforce a more challenging and strategic approach”

Members noted that it was an essential element of the projects that all staff and members who are involved with the project take part simultaneously in the training as an output from the training was an agreed scope and the formulation of a project implementation document (PID). The logistics of training a large number of staff was why PRINCE light was only being employed by one best value review this year. The timetabled training would mean that the best value review of Information Communication and Consultation would not formally commence until late summer, however officers were actively involved in research for the review.

NOTED.

The meeting closed at 6.30 p.m.

N STANLEY

Chairman