

COMMITTEE:	BEST VALUE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
DATE:	15 JULY 2002
SUBJECT:	BEST VALUE REVIEWS
REPORT OF:	STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
Ward(s):	All
Purpose:	To summarise the best value review methodology, the best value review timetable and present a timetable for reports to this committee
Contact:	Nick Ritson, Strategic Development Officer, Telephone 01323 415418 or internally on extension 5418.
Recommendations:	That members note the review timetable That members note and comment on the introduction of the PRINCE project management system That members approve the reporting timetable to this committee.

1.0	<u>Background/Introduction</u>
1.1	This is the third year that best value reviews have been undertaken and the review timetable and the review methodology employed by the Council has been refined on an annual basis. Developments have followed consultation with members, the best value inspection service and the District Auditor.
1.2	Members requested on 27 May that information be provided on the application of the "PRINCE Light" project management system to future reviews.

1.3	Members on 27 May made amendments to the proposed reporting programme to this committee. These amendments are incorporated into the revised reporting programme as well as reviews that were carried out in year 1.
2.0	<h2 style="text-align: center;"><u>The Best Value Review Programme</u></h2>
2.0.1	Eastbourne Borough Council's review timetable originally contained a total of 78 reviews with 16 being carried out in the first year. This was amended for year two to a total of 59 reviews with 11 being carried out in the second year. A further reduction has been agreed to a total of 36 reviews with three being carried out for each remaining year of the five-year programme. The revised programme is attached as appendix 1.
2.0.2	<p>There are a number of perceived benefits of a reduced review programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> § Reviews more recognisable by the public; § Reduces number of reports and committees; § More cross cutting, challenging approach; § Maximises benefits from BVI inspections; § Concentrates on strategic decisions; § Greater input and guidance from Members, CMT, Financial Management and Strategic Development. <p>In addition the reduction in reviews is in accordance with recommendations</p> <p>of District Audit and the Best Value Inspectorate as well as being consistent with the white paper that recognises the reduction nationally in the numbers of best value reviews and states that "further measures will be introduced to reinforce a more challenging and strategic approach"</p>

2.0.3	Although the proposed review timetable is for the remainder of the five-year programme, it should be regarded as flexible. It is evident that comprehensive performance assessment will influence the future review programme and there will be a compulsion to direct reviews to weak or poorly performing areas.
2.1	<u>Review methodology</u>
2.1.1	The reduction in number of reviews and the consequent increase in size and scope has meant that there is a need for an increased focus on formal project management
2.1.2	The council has adopted PRINCE as its project management methodology. PRINCE (P rojects i n C ontrolled E nvironments). The Council has refined the elements of PRINCE to arrive at a proportionate and appropriate system for the scale of the projects being undertaken, this is referred to as Prince Light.
2.1.3	<p>Initially the following projects are identified as being run in accordance with the PRINCE Light methodology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleansing Contract • Cultural Hub • Best Value Review of Information Communication and Consultation • E-procurement • LSVT (Large Scale Voluntary Transfer) <p>It is anticipated that all sizeable projects will utilise PRINCE light in future years.</p>

2.1.4	It is 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 is an agreed scope and the formulation of a project implementation document (PID). The logistics of training a large number of staff is why PRINCE light is only being employed by one best value review this year. The timetabled training will mean that the best value review of Information Communication and Consultation will not formally commence until late summer, however officers are actively involved in research for the review.
2.2	<u>Programme of reports to Best Value Management Committee for 2002/3</u>
2.2.1	A programme of reports is attached as appendix 2 this incorporates revisions agreed by members of this committee and progress reports on year 1 reviews.
3.0	<u>Consultations</u> None specific to this report
4.0	<u>Implications</u> Best Value reviews are the mechanism by which the Council can assess and improve its effectiveness in priority areas. There are no implications specific to this report.
5.0	<u>Summary</u> This report summarises the review programme, the changes to the review methodology and the programme of reports for the Best Value Management Committee.
(Nick Ritson) (Strategic Development)	

Background Papers: The Background Papers used in compiling this report were as follows: None.	
((\\Ntenvironmental\Planning&Stratergy\Nick Ritson\Best Value Reviews\BVMC report 15 July 2002.doc)	