

COMMITTEE:	SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	9 JUNE 2003
SUBJECT:	PERFORMANCE MONITORING
REPORT OF:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Wards:	All
Purpose:	To inform members of the Council's performance for 2002-3 and the targeted performance for 2003-4 as measured by the Best Value Performance Indicators.
Contact:	Nick Ritson, Strategic Development Officer, Telephone 01323 415418 or internally on extension 5418.
Recommendations:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That members consider the performance of the Council for 2002-3 2. That members note the targets set for future years 3. That members identify areas of performance for further scrutiny at a future Scrutiny Committee meeting.
1.0	<u>Background</u>
1.1	The Local Government Act 1999 placed upon all Local Authorities the statutory obligation to achieve continuous improvement in the exercise of their functions.

1.2	<p>At the same time, the Government introduced Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) to enable comparison between different Councils over a period of time. Authorities were also encouraged to develop local indicators of performance. The BVPIs cover the majority of council functions. The intention was that all authorities should reach, by 2004-5, the level of the top performing 25% of authorities in 2000. This was “Best Value”.</p> <p>The attainment of these targets was originally a statutory obligation however the subsequent White Paper “Strong Local Leadership – Quality Public Services” redefined the level of the top 25% (upper quartile) as “aspirational.” Performance indicators however remain an essential component in how public authorities are both judged by central government and allocated “freedoms and flexibilities.” The resulting league tables do, on occasion, receive media and public attention.</p>
1.3	<p>There is an obligation to report annually on the performance of the Council and the targets for improvement – as measured by the BVPIs – in the Best Value Performance Plan. Similarly government guidance states that monitoring and scrutiny involving both officers and members is essential.</p>
1.4	<p>In Eastbourne, the majority of indicators are reported quarterly to all members. Comments and queries are invited through the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee. The Council’s Cabinet receive detailed, quarterly reports on a basket of 13 indicators; these indicators cover selected areas of the Council’s performance.</p>
2.0	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Performance</u></p>
2.1	<p>The appendix to this report contains the year end results. These have been subject to internal scrutiny and sample checking to ensure that they are as accurate as possible. This report is intended as a year end summary for Scrutiny Committee members.</p>
2.2	<p>Of the 67 indicators four are not reported, this is either because the accounts are not yet closed or because we are waiting for detailed results from the Housing stock condition survey.</p>

2.2	Appendix 1 shows that of the indicators, where improvement could be measured, 52% were improving. However only 34% of targets set for 02-03 have been met. Although this could be interpreted as evidence of the challenging nature of our targets, in setting the targets for 03-04 more focus has been placed by Heads of Services and Directors on ensuring that the targets set are achievable.
3.0	<u>Consultations</u>
3.1	Heads of Service have set the targets following the service and financial planning process and consultation with the Council Cabinet and the Corporate Management Team.
4.0	<u>Implications</u>
4.1	The Government sees performance management as central to realising National and Local ambitions in areas such as sustainability and social inclusion as well as improving core services and delivering efficiency, economy and effectiveness.
5.0	<u>Summary</u>
5.1	This report identified the level of performance for 2002-3 and the targeted level for 2003-4. Members are asked to note the contents and identify any areas for which they would like additional information at a future committee meeting
<u>Nick Ritson</u> Strategic Development Officer	

Background Papers:

The Background Papers used in compiling this report were as follows:

Audit Commission Direction for 2002-3 & 2003-4

Audit Commission Newsletter 22 revised.

To inspect or obtain copies of background papers please refer to the contact officer listed above.