

WIRRAL COUNCIL**CABINET - 20TH JUNE 2007****REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE****WIRRAL'S (BEST VALUE) PERFORMANCE PLAN 2006/2007**

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Wirral's performance plan for 2006/2007 is in two parts. The summary, which was incorporated into the council tax booklet and sent to all households in March, and a full performance plan including details of performance in line with statutory requirements, to be published by 30th June. The full performance plan requires the approval of the full Council. It is intended to refer it to Council on 25th June 2007 to comply with the requirement to publish it by 30th June.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the draft of the full performance plan, prior to referral to full Council on the 25th June. In view of the very tight timescales for collection of performance information, it is inevitable that some changes to both the text and layout will be necessary before the document is published on 30th June. Cabinet is requested to agree that the chief executive be given delegated authority to make last minute decisions on minor details relating to presentation and content.

2. (BEST VALUE) PERFORMANCE PLAN REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1 In light of the introduction of the new star rating and the 'harder test' for upper tier and unitary authorities as part of CPA 2005, the government has reviewed the requirements councils must adhere to in relation to their best value performance plans. In line with its approach to deliver freedoms and flexibilities for better performing authorities, the Government has decided to streamline these requirements.
- 2.2 The streamlined requirements for councils in relation to the publication of their performance plans for 2006/2007 are detailed in ODPM Circular 05/2006 – 'Guidance on best value performance plans'. The guidance states that all authorities categorised in CPA as 4 star, 3 star or 2 star must include the following items in their performance plan published by June 2007, and in subsequent years:
- Details of outturn performance over the past year on all best value performance indicators (BVPIs), along with targets for the current year and subsequent two years for all BVPIs;
 - A brief statement of contracts (i.e. certification that all individual contracts awarded during the past year which involved a transfer of staff comply, where applicable, with the requirements on the Code of Practice on Workforce Matters in Local Authority Service Contracts).

2.3 As a 2 star local authority, Wirral has therefore to comply with only the minimum performance plan standards set out above. However, we have also included a brief statement on the following:

- An introduction to Wirral
- How people feel about living in Wirral
- How the council works
- Partnership working in Wirral
- Efficiency plan - investment strategy
- CPA - annual assessment of service performance
- Key achievements in 2006/2007

3. CIRCULATION

3.2. The new guidance recognises that whilst the full performance plan can be both a source of information for strategic partners and a reference tool for members and staff, it is not a key document for communicating with the public. In view of this, it is proposed that an electronic copy of full performance plan will be sent directly to key partners and stakeholders in the public, private, voluntary and community sectors and distributed to others, including interested members of the public, on request. A small number of low cost printed copies will be available in libraries, and one stop shops and people will be directed towards the council's website.

4. FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The cost of publishing of the full performance plan will be minimised to approximately £1k, which will be contained within existing budgets.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The full performance plan describes a range of activities and outcomes, particularly in relation to access to services, which positively address equalities of opportunity.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no specific implications arising directly from this report.

7. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The full performance plan describes a range of activities and outcomes, particularly in relation to the corporate objective of 'protecting and improving our environment', which positively address Local Agenda 21 issues.

8. LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no specific implications arising directly from this report

9. PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

9.1. There are no specific implications arising directly from this report.

10. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The full performance plan describes a range of activities and outcomes, particularly in relation to the corporate objective of 'making Wirral safer' and the key priority area of 'community safety', which positively address community safety issues.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

That

(1) the approach taken to the BVPP be supported and the plan be recommended to council;
and

(2) the Chief Executive be authorised to make last minute decisions on minor details relating to presentation and content.

Stephen Maddox
Chief Executive