

report



Meeting Corporate Strategy and Coordination Standing Select Committee

date 21st June 2004

agenda item number

Report of Assistant Chief Executive

Nottinghamshire County Council's Performance Plan 2004/05

Purpose of Report

1. This report introduces the Council's Performance Plan for 2004/05 and requests the Corporate Strategy and Coordination Select Committee to consider any performance issues it may wish to prioritise for further scrutiny and referral to Cabinet.

Advice and Information

2. The Council's Performance Plan for 2004/05 is appended to this report. It sets out the overall performance of the Council during 2003/04, targets for the Authorities suite of BVPIs and the Council's improvement priorities for 2004/05.
3. The Government will accept the Council's annual Performance Plan as meeting the statutory requirement to prepare a Best Value Performance Plan - providing that it contains the following information, necessary for Government to monitor the Council's performance:
 - outturn data for Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs);
 - targets for BVPIs in the current year and subsequent 2 years;
 - confirmation that they are adopting the Code of Practice in their approach to workforce matters and contracting.
4. The Performance Plan outlines our progress during 2003/04 towards achieving the targets set out in the Council's:
 - Strategic Plan - 'Building a Future'.
 - Public Service Agreement
 - 2003/04 Improvement Plan

- Foundation Community Strategy
 - Suite of BVPIs
5. The Performance Plan provides the opportunity to overview progress of performance focusing on our achievements and direction of travel for performance improvement. The findings outlined in the Plan will be used to drive forward improvements in those areas where there are weaknesses and celebrate the areas of excellence within the Council.
 6. Our performance in meeting our Strategic Plan performance targets in 2003/04 continues with some good progress. 69% of Strategic Plan performance priorities were above, on or within 5% of the target in 2003/04 compared to 76% in 2002/03 a decline of 7%. The direction of travel for performance is positive for 78% of strategic plan priority areas for improvement compared to 88% in 2002/03 a decline of 10%.
 7. National Best Value Performance Indicators provide an important 'health check' on overall performance and offer the scope for comparisons with other councils. BVPIs have been a weakness for the council for some years but increased attention in these areas of performance has begun to show through in improving performance. 59% of national Best Value targets were met (or were within 5%) in 2003/04, a significant improvement on the 54% achieved in 2002/03.
 8. In responding to the CPA and other reviews, the Council took the view that greater pace was needed in changing and improving council services. Our priorities are set out in an Annual Improvement Plan. The Annual Improvement Plan covers services and corporate priorities so that the improvement priorities for the whole council are identified and monitored together. This includes the improvements planned through our annual budget setting process, feedback from service inspections, audit activities and from our own performance monitoring. We achieved, or were within five per cent of 65% of the performance improvement targets that measure the progress of the Council's service and corporate improvement priorities for 2003/04.
 9. The Committee is invited to consider the content of the Plan and whether it wishes to scrutinise particular performance issues where targets are not being met; or where performance is deteriorating; and follow up any issues scrutinised in 2003/4.
 10. The Committee may wish to refer specific comments about performance to Cabinet and to the appropriate Select Committee for scrutiny.

Statutory & Policy Implications

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, Crime and Disorder and those using the Service. Where such implications are material, they have been described in the text of the report.

Recommendation

12. It is recommended that:
- a) The Council's Performance Plan for 2004/05 is considered
 - b) Any priorities for further scrutiny are identified and referred to the appropriate Select Committee to scrutinise
 - c) Any comments on the Council's Performance Plan are referred to Cabinet together with any matters for further scrutiny

Director of Resources Financial Comments (NS 10/05/04)

The cost of publishing the Performance Plan is approximately £1,033 and will be met from the budget for Best Value within the Chief Executives Department.

Executive Head of Democratic and Legal Services Comments

(EB 17/05/04)

The Best Value Performance Plan is part of the policy framework of the County Council and as such decisions in relation to the Best Value Performance Plan are reserved to full Council.

Corporate Strategy Select Committee can make recommendations but constitutional delegation to set policy rests with Council (Article 4 of the Constitution)

Andrew Muter

Assistant Chief Executive

Background Papers available for inspection

Nil

Electoral Division(s) Affected

All