

## **BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**FROM:** Head of Corporate Services

**REPORT NUMBER** **G36**

**TO:** Strategy Committee

**DATE OF MEETING:** 28 June 2007

### **BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN 2007/08**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To ensure the Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) requirements issued under section 6 of the Local Government Act 1999 are met. As a CPA categorised “good” authority, Best Value information may be appended to the Council’s Corporate Plan 2007/08. The BVPP, attached as an Appendix to this report, sets out final performance indicator information for 2006/07 and targets for the next three years. It is a statutory requirement for all local authorities to publish a BVPP by 30 June.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Best Value Performance Plan 2007/08, attached as an Appendix, be approved.

The committee is able to resolve this matter.

#### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The financial implications are set out in the 2007/08 Budget.

#### **4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

<b>Risk Description</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Seriousness or Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation Measures</b>
A BVPP is not produced by the statutory deadline of 30 June	E – Very low	III - Marginal	Detailed timescale produced and adhered to

#### **5. KEY INFORMATION**

- 5.1 Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) are defined nationally by central government. Targets are set locally, but in certain instances national standards need to be achieved.
- 5.2 Overview and Scrutiny (Stewardship) Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny (Community Services) Committee noted and scrutinised variations in the 2006/07 end-of-year BVPI figures on 5 and 12 June respectively.
- 5.3 The BVPP shows that of the 69 BVPI outturns for which comparative data is available 45 are within the top or second quartile, and 24 are within the third or bottom quartile for district councils nationally. This is based on the latest available audited data (2005/06), except for General User Satisfaction Survey indicators (BVPIs 3, 4, 89, 90a, 90b, 119a, 119d & 119e), where unaudited 2006/07 comparator data has been used.

- 5.4 All BVPI targets for 2007/08 have been set within the top or second quartile for district councils with the following exceptions:
- BV183b Average length of stay in hostels
  - BV213 Housing advice service: Number of preventing homelessness cases per thousand households
  - BV 63 Energy efficiency of local housing stock
  - BV11a The % of top 5% earners that are women
  - BV17a The % of staff from ethnic minorities
  - BV119d Satisfaction with cultural and recreational facilities – theatres and concert halls
- 5.5 It is felt that in each case a realistic and challenging target for Babergh would still fall below the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quartile level.
- 5.6 Communities and Local Government (CLG) have deleted 8 BVPIs, either partially or in full, with effect from 1 April 2007. Therefore, no targets have been set for BVPIs 17b, 164, 183a, 203, 214, 219a&c, 76a and 200c. These BVPIs have been deleted either because they no longer provide useful information or in response to recent reports from the Lifting the Burdens Task Force.
- 5.7 From April 2008 a new set of national indicators will replace BVPIs. The power to set BVPIs will be abolished by a clause in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill that is currently progressing through Parliament. Therefore, 2007-08 will be the last year of BVPIs and hence of the BVPP.
- 5.8 In the BVPP, attached as an appendix, BVPIs are aligned to Babergh's five corporate priorities. It may be noted that the corporate priorities to 'Promote healthy living and reduce health inequalities' and 'Raise individual & community ambitions, and encourage active citizenship' are aligned to a much smaller number of BVPIs than are the other priorities. However, Members should be aware that our corporate priorities are also monitored through a set of Local Performance Indicators – indicators and targets relating solely to Babergh and reflecting local needs and priorities. These are not included here as the BVPP is a record of nationally set BVPIs only.
- 5.9 The BVPP finishes with a paragraph on Code of Practice on Workforce Matters – a residual statutory Best Value requirement which requires the authority to state and certify that any contracts awarded during the past year which involved a transfer of staff comply with the requirements in the Code of Practice on Workforce Matters in Local Authority Service Contracts.

## 6. **APPENDIX**

Appendix - Best Value Performance Plan 2007/08

## 7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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