

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2006/2007 REPORT NO. 15

MEETING TITLE AND DATE:

Council
28th June 2006

REPORT OF:

Chief Executive

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Agenda – Part:1	Item: 11
Subject: Enfield Council's Improvement and Best Value Performance Plan 2006-2009	
Wards: All	
Cabinet Members consulted: Cllr Rye, Cllr Zinkin	

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. In 2005 the Council developed the Enfield Council Improvement Plan 2005-2008, which integrated the existing Improvement Plan with the statutory Best Value Performance Plan.
- 1.2. A full review of the 'Putting Enfield First' aims and objectives was carried out and the actions and targets and performance indicators written to enable the achievement of these. The Plan also shows how the Council will contribute to 'Enfield's Future', the Community Strategy.
- 1.3. The Council Improvement Plan 2005 – 2008 was approved by Council on 13th April 2005.
- 1.4. The Council Improvement Plan has now been revised and has been updated to incorporate the comments agreed at Cabinet on 14 June 2006. Completed actions have been deleted and new actions and targets arising from external inspection reports, new initiatives and the administration's manifesto have been added. Ongoing actions have been reviewed and amended where necessary. All performance indicators have been reviewed to ensure that they are challenging and the plan has been extended to cover the period 2006-2009. The Plan's introductory section is attached as Appendix 1. The sections including actions and targets have been placed in the Members' Library and Group rooms.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Council is asked to adopt the updated Enfield Council Improvement and Best Value Performance Plan (2006-2009).

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1. In 2005 the Council took advantage of Government guidance which allows councils to integrate the statutory Best Value Performance Plan

and their improvement / action plan into a single document – The Council Improvement Plan 2005-2008. This enables a clear link to be established between the Council's aims and objectives, the actions required to achieve them and current performance.

- 3.2. As part of the development of the Council Improvement Plan 2005-2008, the 'Putting Enfield First' aims and objectives were reviewed and amended and actions, performance indicators and targets were written which would contribute to the achievement of these aims and objectives.
- 3.3. The plan shows how the Council contributes to the Community Strategy 'Enfield's Future' and also clearly links to departmental, service and individual workplans to ensure that staff are able to identify how they contribute to the Enfield vision. The Audit Commission in the Corporate Performance Assessment (CPA) corporate assessment inspection report commended this. A monitoring and review process of the plan involving regular reports to Corporate Management Board and Cabinet was established.
- 3.4. In order to maintain the Council Improvement Plan as a responsive rolling three-year plan, it is necessary to undertake an annual review and update. Actions that have been completed or duties that are no longer required have been deleted. New actions arising from external inspections, including the CPA corporate assessment have been added, as have new initiatives such as the Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO) and key corporate priority targets from the Local Area Agreement. Actions from the administration's 2006 manifesto commitments have also been added. Ongoing actions have been reviewed and amended as required. All performance indicators have been reviewed to ensure that they are challenging and the plan has been extended to cover the period 2006-2009.
- 3.5. Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) and targets are contained in the main body of the Improvement Plan, but it should be noted that at this stage these are in draft with targets estimated. Finalisation of BVPI data will be carried out in accordance with ODPM guidance on BVPIs. Future targets for BVPIs will be agreed based on new guidance, assessment on last year's performance and BVPI quartile comparison information. An outturn schedule listing all BVPIs and targets will be published 30 June 2006 for audit and will be appended to the Improvement Plan. The Outturn information will be produced and published in accordance with the statutory guidance – Local Government Act 1999: Part 1 Best Value and Performance Improvement – ODPM Circular.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1. No alternative options were considered as there is a statutory requirement to produce a Best Value Performance Plan and the Council

Improvement Plan 2005-2008 has proved to be a key document to drive performance toward the achievement of the Council's aims and objectives

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. To enable delivery of the Council's corporate strategy 'Putting Enfield First', and to meet the Council's statutory requirements relating to council performance plans (Local Government Act 1999) and the CPA (Local Government Act 2003)

5.2. In April 2006 the ODPM issued Circular 05/2006 – Addendum to ODPM Circular 02/2004 – Local Government Act 1999: Part 1 Best Value and Performance and Improvement. The Circular provided new guidance, for CPA authorities categorised as 4 star, 3 star or 2 star stating ..."the Government will accept authorities' annual corporate plan as meeting the statutory requirement to prepare a Performance Plan – providing that it is identified as such" ...

6. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS

6.1. Financial Implications

Enfield Council's Improvement Plan covers the same period as the recently approved medium term financial plan, that is the three years from 2006/07 – 2008/09. The financial plan was developed alongside the new Improvement Plan to ensure that the Council's budget decisions were driven by service priorities and objectives. Provision has been made in the financial plan to deliver the targets set out in the plan.

6.2. Legal Implications

Members have discretion as to the terms of the corporate strategy although the production of the performance plan is required under the terms of the Local Government Act 1999. Equally, the CPA process now has a statutory basis under the Local Government Act 2003 and both the corporate strategy and the improvement plan (incorporating the performance plan) will be key documents in future assessments.

7. PUTTING ENFIELD FIRST

Enfield Council's Improvement Plan will be the action plan for delivering Putting Enfield First.

Background Papers

None.