

BEST VALUE: PROGRESS REPORT**REPORT OF THE CLERK AND THE CHIEF CONSTABLE**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To keep Members informed of progress that has been made in respect of Best Value issues.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The statutory duty of Best Value came into effect on 1 April 2000. Since then we have reported to the Authority, on a monthly basis, to keep Members informed of progress and issues to be addressed.

3. YEAR TWO BEST VALUE REVIEWS

- 3.1 Progress on year two reviews is going well with three reviews now at option appraisal stage. Feedback on the option development stage of the Catering and Cleaning Review and Fleet Management Review has been provided to the relevant employees. Consultation gaps in respect of community safety have been identified and meetings with partners and the public are under way.
- 3.2 The Best Value Annual Review Report appears as a separate item on the agenda for this meeting.

4. BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN

- 4.1 District Audit will shortly commence their yearly audit of the Best Value Performance Plan 2002/2003, which was published on the website on 30 June 2002. The Best Value Performance Plan consultation leaflet for 2003/2004 appears as a separate item on the agenda for this meeting.

5. BEST VALUE REVIEW OF TRAINING

- 5.1 As previously reported, all police authorities and forces in England and Wales are completing local Best Value Reviews which are required to be completed by 30 September 2002. Regional meetings have been set up and are taking place to facilitate sharing of information and good practice. The review is currently on target to meet its deadlines.

6. BEACON COUNCIL

- 6.1 Police authorities, and other best value authorities, have been invited to demonstrate their excellence in service delivery under the Beacon Council Scheme Round Four. Previously this scheme was only open to all English county and district councils,

including unitary councils and metropolitan district councils, as well as the London boroughs.

- 6.2 The Beacon Scheme provides a way of recognising achievements and spreading best practice. It has enabled councils to learn from each other to improve the services they deliver.
- 6.3 Round Four offers a wide range of themes, touching on many aspects of life. These include quality of the built environment, street and highway works and supporting the rural economy. Other themes are particularly relevant to those people most in need, with themes focusing on child and adolescent mental health services, community cohesion, tackling homelessness, social inclusion through ICT and removing barriers to work.

7. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no equal opportunity implications directly arising from this report

8 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report

9 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report

10. RECOMMENDATION

- 10.1 The Authority is recommended to note the update on Best Value provided in this report.