

report

meeting	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND CITY OF NOTTINGHAM FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY	
date	3 June 2005	agenda item number

REPORT OF CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN (2005/6)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present to Members the Best Value Performance Plan 2005/6 for approval prior to its required publication date of 30 June 2005.

2. BACKGROUND

Since 1999 the Authority has been required to report on its performance for public and government scrutiny under the Act. Reporting has involved the production of a Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) detailing past and present performance.

3. BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE

3.1 With the underlying principal of demonstrating progress in delivering local and national priorities and taking account of any formal inspections, the Service is expected to provide specific information within its plan. To this end the plan must include any reviews undertaken and developments made as a result to demonstrate our performance improvement.

3.2 The plan will be published on the Service Website on 30 June 2005 to meet the requirement of the Act. Placing the plan, which includes the Best Value performance indicators, on the website allows us to make regular updates, providing the most up to date information. Attention will be drawn to the actual reporting date and the process of update for the reader. Another distinct advantage of providing the plan in this format is the ability to provide hyperlinks to other information, assisting the reader to digest the information contained within the plan.

3.3 The Plan will be audited by the District Auditor to ensure that it complies with the Local Government Act 1999 and the subsequent Best Value Guidance. Each year since publication of the plan became a requirement the Authority has an 'unqualified letter', which means there is no recommendation to the Secretary of State to carry out a Best Value Inspection of our Service.

3.4 Members will note that the Financial Report details (page 70) are yet to be entered. These will be available following the closure of Accounts and associated audit which is due the second week in June 2005. The figures will be available electronically prior to the BVPP deadline of 30 June 2005.

3.5 Following the publication of the report on the Internet there will be advertisements in the local press and posters in libraries, doctors surgeries and other public buildings to encourage members of the community to find out more about the performance of the Service.

3.6 It is intended only to produce hard copies of the report if they are specifically requested. A copy of the draft plan for approval prior to publication is attached as Appendix A.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The estimated cost of producing the posters and placing the advertisement is about £1000. This cost is significantly lower than would be the case if the plan was not published on the Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service website as publishing costs would be incurred.

5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

There are no personnel implications arising from this report.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An initial impact assessment has identified the need to ensure the BVPP is accessible to all members and the Community. The plan will be available to all members of the community either via the Internet, audio format, or as a document in Braille, large print and in one of the ten main languages spoken in Nottinghamshire.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

The production of a Best Value Performance Plan is contained within the Local Government Act 1999. Failure to produce a plan would be in contravention of the requirements of that Act.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members approve the Best Value Performance Plan and the associated publication process.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION

- Local Government Act 1999 ;
- BVPP Circular 03/2003 ;
- Fire and Rescue Services National Framework 2004/05.

Paul Woods
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

The appendix for this item is not available on this system.
Please contact Catherine Ziane-Pryor at Committee Section on 0115 9154594 to obtain a hard copy.