

**Communities and Environment Scrutiny Committee
8 November 2023**

Best Value Reviews

Report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To consider the progress and future plans of the Best Value Reviews relating to Community Resilience and Environment.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to
- a) consider the information provided and use it to inform questioning and discussion
 - b) make recommendations if appropriate.

3 Background information

- 3.1 In line with the Improvement and Assurance Board instruction to 'Ensure Best Value in delivering quality and cost-effective services is paramount in officer performance', the Council launched a Best Value framework and roadmap of activity.
- 3.2 There are five high priority Best Value Reviews currently underway which have received corporate oversight and support. The reviews will also align to the budget process.
- 3.3 The Reviews in wave one were selected using the following criteria:
- input from Corporate Directors' feedback and suggestions;
 - benefit to the wider strategic direction of the Council;
 - high financial impact to support the budget process;
 - least affected by existing largescale transformation programmes.
- 3.4 As a result of the above, the high priority Best Value Reviews selected for wave one are:

Community Resilience

This Best Value Review incorporates a number of service areas including Community Safety, Community Protection, Leisure and Libraries and Licensing, amongst others.

Environment

The Best Value Review includes Highways, Fleet, Waste, Parks, Trees, Depots and Utilities, amongst others.

IT/Digital

This Best Value Review is not of the IT function but of the wider IT operating model servicing the whole council. This area has been selected due to it being a key enabler to support the wider operating model.

Education

An area largely untouched by the current transformation programmes in Peoples, the Education Best Value Review includes SEND, Passenger Transport, Education Welfare, Traded Services and Access and Inclusion.

Housing / Homelessness

The return of the Housing Management function is a prime opportunity to carry out a Best Value Review in this area. It has high value opportunity in relation to the financial commitments in relation to Homelessness.

- 3.5 The focus on the five high priority Best Value reviews did not preclude directorates from identifying service-led reviews to carry out in a planned and prioritised order, and a Best Value Framework was issued to support colleagues to complete these.
- 3.6 The Best Value Reviews within the remit of this Committee are the Community Resilience and Environment, and officers and Portfolio Holders will be in attendance at the meeting to present a progress update and outline any future plans.

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 Best Value Framework.
- 4.2 Best Value Reviews Process.

5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

- 5.1 None.

6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

- 6.1 None.

7 Wards affected

- 7.1 All.

8 Contact information

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