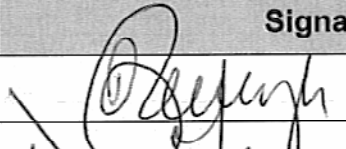
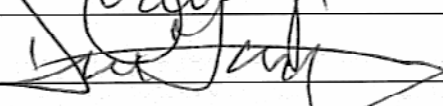




**NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Committee	Council	Meeting Date	26/06/2006
Report Title	Best Value Performance Plan 2006/07		
Agenda Item No.		Version Number	0

Actioned:			
Position	Signature	Date	Ext
Corporate Manager		16/6/06	
Corporate Director		15/6/06	

Report of:	
Directorate	People, Performance and Regeneration
Author Name & Ext	Dale Phillipson, Corporate Manager ext 8273

Key Decision	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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1. Purpose and Brief Summary of report

Production of an annual 'Best Value Performance Plan' by 30th June is a statutory requirement for all local authorities. The production process for this year's BVPP commenced earlier than in the past two years, and draft versions of the plan have been considered by Improvement Board and the Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group. The plan reflects the Corporate Plan and sets out three-year targets for service areas, in addition to reporting the outrun data for 2005/06.

2. Recommendations

That Council approve the Best Value Performance Plan 2006/07 for publication by 30th June 2006.

3. Relevant Background

Our BVPP last year was 'qualified' by external audit owing to its late submission. The Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group report on the BVPP process sets out relevant background.

4. Evaluation of Alternative Options

	Option	Evaluation Summary
a	None	
b		
c		
d		

5. Consultees [internal and external]

Internal	Improvement Board; O+S Task and Finish Group; SCMT.
External	KPMG (external audit)

6. Compliance Issues

Links to relevant Council Priorities	
Recovery Plan	Yes - BVPP reflects and references the Recovery Plan
Corporate Plan	Yes - the BVPP reflects and references the Corporate Plan
Links with / Impact on other Strategies	Yes - various explicit links set out in the BVPP.
Resource Implications	None

Legal Implications	Publication by 30th June 2006 is a statutory requirement. Failure to publish by this date will result in automatic qualification of the BVPP. Such a qualification would significantly impact on the Council's prospect for improvement from a 'poor' CPA rating, and could also lead to central government intervention.
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Community Safety	Links set out in the BVPP.
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Children Act Issues	As above
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Risk Management Issues	None
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Equalities Compliance Issues	None
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7. Background Papers

Title	Description	Source
None		

8. Review

Proposed Review Date	None set yet.
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The Best Value Performance Plan 2006/07 has been produced in accordance with the requirements from the Department for Communities and Local Government (formerly ODPM).

Earlier drafts of the plan have been considered by both Improvement Board and the Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group, which reviewed the BVPP process and whose report is being presented to Council separately.

Following the completion of the latest draft, detailed comments from our external auditors have been received. These are attached for your information. In general their advice is that the plan meets all essential criteria and contains no serious omissions. The attached comments add additional value and are suggestions, rather than requirements.

Council is recommended to approve the attached Best Value Performance Plan 2007/07. Amendments as set out in the attached comments from external audit can be inserted prior to publication where practical to do so.

Northampton Borough Council

Comments on draft version 9

Para No.	Comment/suggestion
2.5	Could you give very brief indication of what each partnership or forum is meant to achieve. Could link to outcomes that have been achieved to date.
2.7	Title is misleading because you only refer to council tax and no other sources of income.
2.7page 9	Para number is wrong as it should be 2.8 I think you need to say something about performance measures and how they are the means by which you judge whether services are improving or not. You could give examples of better and possibly not so good performance. You refer to quality – in my view this is often difficult to measure so I think you need a good example to demonstrate 2 nd para Can you say that progress is evaluated by GMB? (d) Will the reader know what a balanced scorecard is? (e) You could add the first studies to show how they link to the Council’s priorities. (g) As a firm we are the agents of the AC so are not really a separate body.
3.1	Priorities remain a mixture of where we want to get there and how we will do it
3.2	How many were consulted on financial planning?
3.3	This is an opportunity to show how the priorities in 3.1 are met in part by the LAA. I would suggest using the words of the priorities to link them. (a)(b) (c) (d) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any examples especially with numbers %s people can relate to? • how will NBC contribute to these? • what are knowledge economy employers? • what does “accessibility of communities to meet their needs” mean?
4	If you could link the priorities to the relevant performance measure so that cleaner safer etc precedes “streetscene and property maintenance”. It would give the opportunity to use the streetscene performance in the earlier text. Highlights some issues such as the only pm for finance is the number invoices paid within 30 days but there is a little more to managing the Council’s finances effectively Is it possible to add to the pi’s where you are now so the extent by which you have to improve to achieve your targets can be seen with a comment as to why this necessary Do you need the PI no.?
4.11	Not clear how this adds anything and the missing data (in this version) doesn’t help
5.1	Improvement objectives – would service improvements not be better understood How can you suspend what was never in place?
5.2	Have complaints increased or decreased?
5.4	I think you need to say that these are 2004/05 Penultimate para – do the consultants have a contract? If so where does partnership come in? Line 5 “payment of invoices” Last line page 9?
5.5	I’m not clear what the final tables are – year/purpose/ what they demonstrate – and what the reader is intended to draw from them