

ANGUS COUNCIL**POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 27 OCTOBER 1998****REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE****BEST VALUE****ABSTRACT**

This report suggests amendments to the programme for Best Value Service Area Reviews in respect of the 1998/99 and 1999/2000 financial year programmes for the Chief Executive's Department.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee should approve:-

- (a) the proposed revised programme for 1999/2000 for the Chief Executive's Department, taking into account that the programmes proposed will be joint reviews; and
- (b) A review of the whole Economic Development Service being undertaken in one phase ,commencing immediately for completion by April 2000.

2. BACKGROUND

The Council, under its Best Value Implementation Plan, agreed that each Department should:-

- (a) bring forward a proposal by the May/June Committee cycle to provide a Best Value project in respect of at least one area of Departmental operations to be implemented as of April 1999; and
- (b) bring forward a plan to review all services within each Department under the Best Value proposals within the next five year cycle (Report No 504/98 refers).

3. DETAILS FOR THE 1999/2000 PROGRAMME

The following services were scheduled to be reviewed:-

- 1 Services to Members.
- 2 Communications with the Public.
- 3 Communications with Councillors, MPs and the MEP.

- 4 Communications with Outside Bodies.
- 5 Corporate Advice, Facilities and Methods.
- 6 Performance Review Systems.
- 7 Complaints System.
- 8 Co-ordination of Functions.
- 9 Policy-led Budgeting Systems.
- 10 Research Facilities and Development Systems.
- 11 Community Planning.
- 12 Economic Development - European Issues.
- 13 Economic Development - Development Services.
- 14 Filing, Archiving and Document Retrieval.
- 15 Departmental IT Systems and Corporate Aspects.

Taking into account the heavy workload which is developing under Best Value and the leading role which is played by the Chief Executive's Department, it is suggested that the reviews numbered 7 Complaints System, 9 Policy-Led Budgeting Systems and 11 Community Planning should be deferred into a later year i.e. 2001/2002. It is also considered that these reviews would be better carried out during later financial years, given that the service areas referred to are only in the course of development themselves.

This would also reduce the workload which is being carried within the Chief Executive's Department, particularly with regard to Best Value development in the next financial year and the following.

In addition, further consideration has been given to the original proposal to review Economic Development (Marketing and Promotion) starting during the course of this year.

It is suggested that due to the interrelation between all of the aspects of the Economic Development Unit's work and the involvement of virtually all staff in each of the three divisions previously proposed for separate assessment, i.e. Marketing and Promotion, European Issues and Development Services; that a single assessment be undertaken of the whole of the Economic Development function. Due to the increased scale it is proposed that the timetable should be amended to start immediately for completion by April 2000.

In addition, in order that further preparation of the new Implementation Plan for the period up to May 2000 may be carried forward, it is suggested that the

following timescales be ascribed to services still to be reviewed with commencement during financial year 1999/2000:-

Service	Start Date	Finish Date
Economic Development	October 1998	April 2000
Services to Members	April 1999	April 2000
Communications with the Public, Councillors, MSP's, MPs and MEP and Communications with Outside Bodies	June 1999	June 2000
Corporate Advice, Facilities and Methods and Performance Review Systems	September 1999	September 2000
Co-ordination of Functions	September 1999	September 2000
Research Facilities and Development Systems	December 1999	December 2000
Filing, Archiving and Document Retrieval and Departmental IT Systems and Corporate Aspects	December 1999	December 2000

The amendments to the programme will require to be notified to the Scottish Office so that they may amend the details which they hold of all Councils' proposals in respect of Best Value Service Reviews. All of these reviews are either joint, involving other departments, or corporate, affecting all departments.

4. CONCLUSIONS

As a result of the continuing heavy workload, further consideration has been given to the programme of reviews. Most of those being carried out by the Chief Executive's Department are by their nature corporate and many of the services involve service developments which are at an early stage. It is suggested it would be of benefit to review these services when they have reached a more mature stage.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications cannot be quantified at this stage. It has been noted there will be detailed references in any Committee reports in terms of the financial regulations. The proposals would, in any event, defer the possibility of earlier incurring of expenditure for the specific services.

6. CONSULTATIONS

All members of the Management Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

A B Watson
Chief Executive

IR/BAK

29 September 1998

E:IR/Reports/Best Value - P & R