

**REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT  
PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE AND REVIEW PANEL**

(Meeting held on 16 November 2000)

**1. ROLE OF PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE AND REVIEW PANELS IN BEST VALUE (REPORT B) (MINUTE NO. 8)**

The Panel received a detailed report on the Best Value review process and the role which might be played by Members.

Members were very aware of the time commitment which might be involved in taking part in the Best Value reviews, particularly on extensive services. It was considered essential that they had some training so that their activity was correctly directed towards meeting their specific role, without involvement in unnecessary areas.

In answers to questions, Members were advised that sustainability was one of the key elements in each Best Value review. Although Local Agenda 21 and sustainability was a cross-cutting review in Year 3, this important subject was not being ignored until that time.

It was agreed that the following Members should be appointed to take the lead, on behalf of the Panel, in the Year 1 and Year 2 service reviews listed below:

Food and Health & Safety –	Cllrs Hoy and Spikins
Cleansing	Cllr Scott to complete the process
Public Services	
(general overview)	Cllr Hoy and Spikins

Appointments to help on specific sub-areas;

Public conveniences	Cllr Smith
Grounds Maintenance	Cllr Shepherd
Cemeteries	Cllr Woods
Street Naming/Numbering	Cllr Smith
Car Parks	Cllr Shepherd
Abandoned Vehicles	Cllr Brooks
Customer Services	Cllr Brooks

**2. MAJOR POLICY ISSUES (REPORT C) (MINUTE NO. 9)**

The Panel noted the provisional programme of major policy reviews that the Advisory Cabinet and Policy and Resources Committee had agreed should form the basis of their work programme during the initial trial period to May 2001.

In answer to questions, Members were advised that the Performance and Review Panels would have the opportunity to comment on the expenditure plans for 2001/02 starting in the January cycle of meetings.

Their views would be taken forward to the Advisory Cabinet for their consideration. Members were also reminded that they were entitled to use the call-in procedure if they felt that the consultation process had not been adequate.

### **3. PROGRAMMED SERVICE REVIEWS (REPORT D) (MINUTE NO. 10)**

The Panel gave initial consideration to the service reviews which they might wish to undertake in the coming months. They were mindful that an independent service review should not normally be carried out on an area which was subject to a Best Value review in Year 1 or 2, in order to avoid duplication of effort. It was however noted that the contracts for grass cutting would be let towards the end of 2001. Preparatory work would be taking place in early 2001. On this basis, Members asked to receive issues papers on this topic in the early part of 2001 so that they might have an input into the process, and influence the quality of the outcome.

In the ensuing debate Members indicated that some of the functions which have been included within the Environment Portfolio were not a logical fit, whilst other associated functions had been excluded. As a consequence, it was agreed that the Modernisation Working Party should be advised that car park management, transportation issues and concessionary travel do not form a logical part of the Environment Portfolio and should be re-located. On the other hand, land drainage and coastal protection should be transferred into this Portfolio from Economy and Planning.

It was also agreed that a timetable of Policy & Resources Committee meetings should be prepared with the "call-in" deadline dates shown.

Councillor J M Hoy  
**CHAIRMAN**

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