



Report to Cabinet

Subject Changes to National Performance Indicators

Date 7 April 2005

Author Head of Cabinet Office

1. Purpose of the Report

§ To inform members of changes to Best Value Performance Indicators announced recently by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), and of work now being carried out to accommodate these changes.

2. Background

Best Value Performance Indicators remains a key measure of local authority performance. They are likely to be a key tool through which the Audit Commission carries out "Direction of Travel" assessments, as part of revised arrangements for Comprehensive Performance Assessment later this year.

As reported verbally at the last meeting of Cabinet (3 March 2005), the ODPM published details of revisions to the national suite of Best Value Performance Indicators on 28 February 2005.

The changes result from a fundamental review of the Best Value Performance Indicator suite, as detailed in the letter attached at **Appendix A**.

The changes come into effect from 1 April 2005.

3. Summary of Changes made

Full details of the all Best Value Performance Indicators can be found at the web address quoted in **Appendix A**, or via the Audit Commission website: -

www.audit-commission.gov.uk/performance

For District Councils, the changes mean: -

- 7 new performance indicators, 3 of which are two-part indicators and 1 of which is a three-part indicator, giving a total of 12 new measures.
- 17 amended performance indicators, one of which (BV199 – Street cleaning) in effect introduces three new indicators and all of which require changes to some extent in the way data is gathered.
- 3 deleted performance indicators.

The new indicators include measures for housing repairs, re-letting council houses, pollution control, abandoned vehicles, contaminated land and conservation areas. Some cover issues against which the Council already measures performance and it may be possible to adapt existing measurement to fit the new national requirements.

Amended indicators include measures for rent collection, recycling, street cleaning and community safety.

Indicators being deleted cover community planning and appointments for housing repairs.

The announcement of the changes is later than had been expected, and has left little time for preparatory work.

Relevant departments have been advised of the changes and of the need to ensure systems are in place to measure performance against new and revised performance indicators from 1 April 2005.

Advice from the ODPM confirms that targets need not be set against those indicators until baseline data has been gathered during the first year.

New, revised and continuing performance indicators for district councils will be incorporated in the revised Strategic Corporate Plan (which includes the statutory Best Value Performance Plan) due to be reported to Cabinet and Council in June 2005.

4. Resource Implications

There may be additional workload arising from some of the new indicators (for example, around street cleaning inspections) but it is hoped that this can be accommodated from within existing agreed resources.

5. Recommendation

Members are recommended to note the report.

Appendix A



Office of the
Deputy Prime Minister

Creating sustainable communities

Chief Executives
Best Value Authorities

Jonathan Bramhall
Senior Policy Adviser
Local Government Quality
5/A5
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London
SW1E 5DU
Direct Line: 020 7944 4135
Fax: 020 7944 4099
GTN No: 3533
jonathan.bramhall@odpm.gsi.gov.uk

Web Site: www.odpm.gov.uk

28 February 2005

Dear Colleague,

BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2005/06

I am writing to inform you that an electronic version of the 2005/06 guidance on the Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) is now available on the ODPM website.

Following a fundamental review of the BVPIs and extensive consultation with stakeholders, we have reduced the overall number of BVPIs to ninety - four. We have deleted fourteen indicators from the existing set, introduced ten new BVPIs and amended a further twenty - six. It is now our intention to leave the set largely unchanged for the next 2 - 3 years, enabling authorities to build up valuable time - series data.

The guidance is available now on the ODPM website at:

<http://www.odpm.gov.uk/bestvalue>

Two paper copies of the guidance have been sent to the Chief Executive of all local authorities in England and one copy has been sent to the Chief Executive of other Best Value authorities. Further priced copies are available from:

ODPM Publications
PO Box 236
Wetherby LS23 7NB

Tel: 0870 1226 236
Fax: 0870 1226 237
Email: odpm@twoten.press.net

Subject to Parliamentary approval, the BVPIs and performance standards will be given formal effect from 1 April 2005 by means of an Order under section 4 of the Local Government Act 1999.

The guidance has been completely re-written this year to ensure that, as far as possible, it provides clear and unambiguous guidance to authorities. Drafting of the guidance was undertaken with significant help and input from a small group of seven local authorities, the Local Government Association, the Improvement and Development Agency and the Audit Commission.

We were grateful for the responses received to the consultation document issued last July. A summary of the main points made by respondents, together with the Government's conclusions will be made available before the end of March on the ODPM website.

In addition to the formal consultation exercise, ODPM also constituted a sounding board of sixteen local authorities, the Audit Commission and the Local Government Association. The sounding board met on five occasions and provided invaluable advice and assistance.

All new BVPIs were piloted for a two month period by a number of local authorities. This was a very useful process which provided hard evidence of the robustness of the proposed measures. Existing BVPIs which were being substantially amended were also piloted. The BVPIs affected were BV33 and BV192 (education), BV66a (Housing), BV 176 (domestic violence), BV177 (community legal service) and BV199 (environment).

The Audit Commission will not be specifying any statutory performance indicators for 2005/06. However, they will retain the primary role for the collection and validation of the data.

I am copying this letter to other Best Value stakeholders.

Yours faithfully,

Jonathan Bramhall