

Portfolio area: Strategy and performance

Date of Meeting 18th September 2001	Agenda Item No
Public/Private* * Not for publication by virtue of paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972	Delegated: Yes/No
Key Decision: Yes/No	Recorded in Forward Plan: Yes/No

Title : BEST VALUE REVIEW – REGENERATION**Report of : TOWN CLERK AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE****Report reference TC 197/ 01****Summary**

This report summarises the outcomes of the Best Value Review Scoping Panel and seeks endorsement of the direction for this review and the use of consultants to support it.

Recommendation

1. The key issues or desired outcomes for the review be endorsed.
2. Three tenders be sought for consultancy support to the review.

Contact Officer John Mallinson Ext: 7010**Head of Corporate Policy & Strategy****1. Background**

1.1 As Members are aware most Best Value reviews are now thematic rather than service based. These thematic reviews are very broad in nature and can, as a consequence, be complex, time consuming and difficult to adequately resource. Importantly a key reason for the themes chosen for review is that they should reflect major Corporate concerns and thus the review will take the Authority forward in these significant areas. For these reasons it is vital that such reviews are tightly focused on the key issues for the organisation within

the particular theme.

2. Policy and Resources Committee agreed a process and protocol for identifying these key issues for each thematic review and, pending the establishment of Overview and Scrutiny Committees, this task was allocated to a Best Value Review-Scoping Panel.

1. Scope of Regeneration Review

3.1 The Minutes of the panel meeting for this review are attached as the Appendix to this report. In summary :

- The review needs to consider regeneration across all the District both Urban and Rural.
- Needs to involve all partner agencies.
- Must consider the full range of factors which are involved in addressing regeneration in a comprehensive way.

The panel recognised that regeneration can only be tackled through an effective partnership and also recognised the need for a clear lead or co-ordination role within the Authority.

1. Key Issues

4.1 The key issues or desired outcomes for the review were identified as:

1. A regeneration strategy for Carlisle
2. An action plan to take that forward in partnership
3. Options for the lead / co-ordination of regeneration within the Council structure
4. A performance framework and potential performance indicators to evaluate future success.

1. Consultancy Support

5.1 A budget of £100,000 was allocated to support Best Value Fundamental Reviews in the current year and this important and complex review both merits and requires such support. It is proposed that three tenders be sought for this work based upon a brief reflecting the panel findings and the key issues referred to above. The Consultants to support an in-house team in the usual way and follow the process as set out in the Authority's Best Value Handbook.

2. Consultation

6.1 The review itself will include wide-ranging consultation.

3. Staffing / Resources Comments

7.1 Consultancy support will enable the review to be taken forward, it could not be undertaken effectively without such support.

4. Financial Comments

8.1 As identified the necessary budget has been allocated.

5. Legal Comments

None

6. Corporate Comments

10.1 Included within the narrative of the report.

7. Reasons for Recommendations

11.1 To provide the required direction for this thematic review.

11.2 To adequately resource this difficult and challenging review.

8. Recommendations

12.1 The key issues or desired outcomes for the review be endorsed.

12.2 Three tenders be sought for consultancy support to the review.

Peter Stybelski

Town Clerk & Chief Executive

BEST VALUE SCOPING PANEL

29 AUGUST 2001 AT 2.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Bloxham (Chairman), Councillors Mrs Bradley, Fisher L, Guest, Jefferson, Knapton, Mrs Mallinson and Mrs Styth

ALSO PRESENT: Mr J Mallinson (Head of Policy and Strategy), Mrs E MacKay (Committee Clerk), Mr J Shires, Mr D O'Brien and Mr A Pateman (Political Group Assistants)

BVSP.6/01 APOLOGIES

Apologies for Absence were submitted on behalf of Ms Hook.

BVSP.7/01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Best Value Scoping Panel held on 15 August 2001 were approved as a correct record.

BVSP.8/01 REGENERATION BEST VALUE OVERVIEW SESSION

The Head of Corporate Policy and Strategy advised that as a precursor to the Scoping Exercise, Internal Audit had been asked to conduct an information-gathering exercise on Regeneration activity within the authority. He provided details of the List of Strategies/Documents etc which had been identified by the Audit Section as contributing to the Regeneration theme. In addition, as a detailed background to Regeneration issues in Carlisle, the Indices of Deprivation Report 2000 was attached in full, along with a relevant extract from the Best Value Inspector's Report on the Economic Development Service.

He highlighted some of the documents contained in the List of Documents/Strategies which contribute towards Regeneration and commented that Departments may have more information on Regeneration but may not be aware that it falls within the category of Regeneration.

Members referred to the Indices of Deprivation Report 2000 and commented that the Indices were still based on old Wards some of which no longer existed, e.g. Trinity, and others had been subject to substantial changes in Ward boundaries e.g. Morton, Stanwix Urban and Castle Wards. They suggested that an examination of Regeneration could not be based on these figures alone as the boundary changes had significant impacts on the Indices of Deprivation within these specific Ward areas.

The Head of Corporate Policy and Strategy advised that when local bids were being prepared, a lot of other local information was also used. He commented that the Indices of Deprivation prepared by the Government were to be reviewed annually in future but that the 2000 Report, although being the most recent Report, would not include changes to the Ward boundaries. New Ward boundaries would not be used by Government until full data sets were available on that basis when 2001 Census data was published. He recognised the frustration of not having the most up to date information, but advised that other information sources could also be used to gain further information.

Members stressed the importance of being able to have an accurate picture of the current situation before identifying areas requiring regeneration. The Head of Corporate Policy and Strategy recognised that some of the information contained within the Indices Report was of assistance but that the information in relation to areas where Ward boundaries had changed would need to be supplemented by local information from Agencies such as Health Authorities, Benefits Agency and Job Centre.

Members also suggested that the Report which had been conducted by Sheffield Hallam University had a significant impact on Regeneration and should be included within the List of Documents/Strategies set out.

In assessing all the information available, Members concluded that the information was not quite adequate enough to move into a detailed evaluation but would not stop them from looking at Regeneration. The Head of Corporate Policy and Strategy emphasised that the intention at this stage was not to identify specific Wards or areas, but rather to look at how Regeneration should be handled by the Authority.

RESOLVED - (1) That it be noted that, in relation to future thematic reviews, it may be beneficial to have more tailor-made data available to examine the issues in hand.

(2) That the information contained in the List of Documents/Strategies and in the Indices of Deprivation Report be noted, with the comment that it was not adequate enough to move into detailed evaluation and that it would have to be supplemented by local information, particularly in relation to those Wards which had experienced boundary changes.

(3) That the Sheffield Hallam Report on Housing be added to the List of Documents/Strategies which contribute towards Regeneration.

BVSP.9/01 REGENERATION BEST VALUE FUNDAMENTAL

PERFORMANCE REVIEW - SCOPING

The Head of Corporate Policy and Strategy submitted a paper as a starting point for discussion on scoping the Regeneration Review. He posed a number of questions and set out his thoughts in relation to addressing each of the following areas:-

Where do we need Regeneration?

Members suggested that rather than setting out specific areas, there should be a general statement recognising that in the City Council area, there were a number of urban and rural areas in need of regeneration and that the type and style of regeneration may vary according to the location and indicative factors.

What factors are involved?

Members endorsed the List suggested by the Head of Corporate Policy and Strategy and suggested that the following be added:-

Transport or Access to be added as a new category

Anti-Social Behaviour to be added after Crime

Sport and Leisure to be added as a new category

Who should be involved?

Members endorsed the list proposed by the Head of Corporate Policy and Strategy, suggesting that everybody should be involved in Regeneration. They suggested that this section could be expanded by looking at not just who should be involved, but also how we can involve them.

Where are we now, where do we want to be, how can we progress the Review and what should be the outcome?

Members considered these questions together and endorsed the proposed outcomes for the Review.

They referred to the section on how can we progress the Review and the Head of Corporate Policy and Strategy's proposal that as the Best Value Budget provides for Consultancy Support, three tenders be sought and the Executive asked to release funding. Consultant Support would be provided to an in-house cross-departmental team. Members commented that at this stage a report should be put to the Executive outlining the possibility of appointing consultants to undertake this work and seeking their agreement before seeking tenders.

In relation to the in-house team, it was suggested that a representative from the Planning Section should be included on that team.

RESOLVED - (1) That the Head of Corporate Policy and Strategy in setting out the scope of the Review take on board the comments outlined by Members above.

(2) That the Head of Corporate Policy and Strategy report to the Executive on how the Review can be progressed and the possibility of appointing consultants.

(3) That the in-house team include a representative from the Planning Section.

BVSP.10/01 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED - That the next meeting of the Best Value Scoping Panel be held on Monday, 10 September 2001 at 2.00 pm to discuss the scoping of the Customer Contact Best Value Review.

(The meeting ended at 3.20 pm)