

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

EXECUTIVE MEETING – 13TH OCTOBER 2003

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR POLICY AND REGENERATION

FOR ACTION

NAME OF WARD(S)

ALL

SCOPES FOR 2003/04 BEST VALUE REVIEWS

1. SUMMARY

1.1 This report outlines the scopes for the 2003/04 Best Value reviews of

- Sports Services
- Regulatory Services
- Early Years Development Service

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Members are asked to:

- (i) consider the attached scopes and approve or make amendments to them

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are none specific to this report. However the best value process will enable the council to examine all services thoroughly to establish their efficiency, effectiveness and economy. It is therefore important that reviews are properly scoped to enable the maximum benefit to accrue from the examination of the service.

4. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are none specific to this report

5. DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 The Council's Performance Plan outlined the programme of reviews for 2003/04 as above. These reviews are the second tranche to be undertaken using the panel process outlined in last year's scopes report. This process has proved very successful and has ensured the timely completion of the majority of the programme of reviews for 2002/03. The process has also been commented upon favourably during inspection of completed reviews by the Audit Commission.

5.2 The Policy and Regeneration continues to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the process and to provide detailed training and guidance for services as part of the broader service improvement agenda.

5.3 Owing to a number of specific, technical difficulties, two of last year's reviews have been carried over to be completed alongside the 2003/04 programme. These reviews, 'People Management and Organisation' and 'IT Use Across the Council', have both experienced difficulties as council-wide, cross-cutting reviews. They will be completed towards the end of 2003/beginning of 2004 and will be reported to the Executive at this time.

6. **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The following papers were referred to in the preparation of this report:

Best Value Performance Plan 2003-2004

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PHIL NEWBY
DIRECTOR POLICY AND REGENERATION

BEST VALUE REVIEW OF THE SPORTS SERVICE

DRAFT SCOPE

This review will fundamentally examine the economy, effectiveness and equality of sports provision in Brent with a focus on identifying the best mechanisms to deliver the commitments outlined in Sport and Leisure Development Framework, in the context of a mixed economy of sports provision within the Borough.

To do this the review will:

- Identify sporting needs within the borough and prioritise service delivery to meet the greatest needs.
- Identify the human and financial resources required to deliver the service, assess whether the existing structure is appropriate and identify staff development needs.
- Audit and map the supply of all sports services and facilities across the borough and identify projected future levels of provision.
- Clarify the Sports Services role within the mixed economy of sports provision, identifying how the service relates to key stakeholders.
- Clarify the national, regional and local policy context within which the service operates, and ensure the service is fully aligned with to key corporate objectives and strategies.
- Identify all potential funding opportunities for increasing sports provision and quality of provision with the borough.
- Identify all opportunities for increasing access to sports services and opportunities, especially amongst identified low/non-user groups.
- Identify all possible options for the procurement of services, in line with strategic objectives and user needs.
- Seek out best practice from other local authorities and external organisations and incorporate any learning into service delivery in Brent.
- Establish a clear performance management framework against which to develop a culture of continuous improvement.

Areas outside the scope of the review:

- Structured physical education and sports in schools

BEST VALUE REVIEW REGULATORY SERVICES

DRAFT SCOPE

The best value review of Regulatory services will examine the collective efficiency, effectiveness and economy of:

- Building Control and Consultancy Services
- Environmental health (excluding Private Housing Service)
- Health, Safety and Licensing
- Planning
- Trading Standards

and their interface with the community.

It will aim to secure continuous improvement in the way these services are delivered.

The Review will examine:

- The extent to which the services focus on what matters to the local people and businesses.
- How these services and their performance contribute to national and corporate priorities.
- Opportunities for improving access and usability of these services.
- Opportunities to improve the quality of outcomes for customers.
- The ability of these services to meet their statutory obligations.
- The opportunity to change existing work processes and to develop staff to deliver what matters to local people and businesses.

BEST VALUE REVIEW EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE

DRAFT SCOPE

The purpose of this review is to develop a strategy for early years, this will incorporate:

- An articulated vision for early years education and childcare at a local level.
- A revision, with key partners, of existing patterns of provision and plans for developing and reshaping services to better meet needs.
- Plans for the development of integrated services that contribute to corporate and Government objectives including early education, childcare, health advice and family support for young children.
- Workforce planning.
- The needs of the local population, recognising cultural, linguistic, religious and ethnic differences.

The following partners will be involved in the development of the strategy:

- Parents.
- Children.
- Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership.
- Voluntary sector.
- Sure Start local programmes.
- Social Services.
- Health.
- Education.
- Planning.
- Neighbourhood renewal.
- Regeneration.

In developing the early years strategy the review will examine:

- The coherence of planning for early years across the authority
- The coherence of service provision for children and families
- The extent to which provision accords with corporate and Sure Start priorities
- The quality of early years provision
- The range of choice available to parents and the ability of early years services to respond flexibly to parental need
- The effectiveness of the EYDCP
- The effectiveness of current financial arrangements and the potential of those arrangements to meet future needs

The review will not examine:

- The effectiveness of current staffing arrangements
- The value for money provided by current organisational structures

In light of the LEA inspection, the proposed best value review of early years services was brought forward, and the review will report in December 2003. As there is no early years service as such to review, it has been agreed that the report will propose a local authority early years strategy and put forward recommendations for implementation of the strategy.