

South Derbyshire District Council

Best Value for Development Control

Implementation Plan

Issues underlying this plan derive from:

- Government's Best Value agenda and targets
- Government's e-government agenda
- Current circumstances facing the Council
- Best Value Report by South Derbyshire District Council team
- Best Value Report by Audit Com. Inspectors
- The Council's Modernising Agenda.

These are often interrelated and interdependent. The issues are:

CONTEXTUAL

- The Best Value regime as required by Government policy/procedures/targets/monitoring
- The Council is resource bound and reprioritising its service delivery
- Partnership working is a principal focus for Service improvement but the review was judged to be weak on challenge and competition.
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CORPORATE

- Linkages with Corporate and Community Plans are not yet in place and not informing planning policy formulation
- The decision making regime is changing (Modernising)
- Mechanisms and outcomes of resource re-allocation across the Council are not yet in place
- Performance Management is not yet in place across the Council
- Staff development system has no training regime established and agreed yet
- Linkages to join up services are embryonic
- Linkages with corporate objectives are not clear or well made
- Partnership working outside the Council is embryonic
- Accessibility of the internet is embryonic

INVOLVEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY

- The adequacy of consultation procedures is challenged
- The clarity and accessibility of information is challenged
- There is an increased interest in becoming involved in policy formulation and procedure
- There is an increased desire to be influential in better informed Development Control decision making.

RESOURCES IN DEVELOPMENT CONTROL

- Overheads appear to be high
- There are shortcomings in the accounting mechanism required to reveal this
- Resources to meet requirements and to achieve change will be strictly rationed
- Staff development is crucial to meeting the requirements of Best Value
- Joined up and partnership working is important

- Expanded service delivery is necessary to demonstrate Best Value.

PERFORMANCE

- Monitoring and reporting is inadequately developed
- Policy documents and guidance notes are challenged for their relevance and clarity, particularly in areas such as sustainability
- Maintaining high levels of output with existing low staff levels is challenged as high risk
- Joining up delivery and working in partnership is required to meet Best Value
- Use of internet for/by stakeholders is embryonic

Vision/Overall Objective

Where we want to be

What character of organisation shall we be?

- Responsive
- Fair
- Open/transparent
- Accessible in terms of availability and equality of opportunity

What level of delivery do we aim for?

- Effective
- Efficient (affordable)
- Co-ordinated and joined up with other services internally and externally (Closing loops)
- Consistent
- Championing environmental issues particularly sustainability*
- Well monitored*

The 1st four of these delivery aims represent improvement to the existing service. The last two marked * represent a shift to new ground.

Objectives/Policy

How to get there

WE will:

1. Respond to the Best Value agenda as pro-actively as possible
2. Rationalise corporate resources so as to impact/diminish service capability as little as possible
3. Reflect the upcoming Corporate and Community Plans in as joined up a way as possible
4. Use the Modernising agenda to delegate policy compliant decisions to officers whilst reserving policy and controversial decisions to Members
5. Implement performance management as per the corporate model
6. Target staff development to service delivery
7. Pursue joined up thinking in service delivery
8. Develop consultation to encompass service delivery as well as within process
9. Provide additional opportunity for community involvement in decision making
10. Influence development of accounting systems to report comprehensively with minimal manual manipulation

11. Ration resources to achieve joined up outputs
12. Actively develop partnerships where possible
13. Prepare and present Local Plan review to committee as soon as possible after July 2001 and project manage delivery thereafter
14. Involve stake holders in customer charter and review of Supplementary Planning Guidance to make it more accessible to users
15. Pursue Sustainability as major priority in development
16. Exploit opportunities for electronic transfer of information
17. Influence the evolution of policy by reference to experience of its implementation.

22/5/01

Action *What steps will we take to accomplish the above?*

Action	Indicator	Target	Who by?	Priority	By when?
Integrate service delivery with Corporate and Community Plans Policies 1,2,3,4	Reshaped Implementation Plan	All planned actions comply with those plans	Policy + Best Value unit + Planning managers	\$ \$ \$	After publication + 6 weeks
Prioritise staff deployment in core delivery areas Policies: all	Staff Numbers	Resources devoted to Development Control maintained at present level	DCE + PSM	\$ \$ \$	September 2001/ March 2002 budget round
Review Delegation Agreement Policies 4,7,8,17	New Document	Delegation and community protection in better balance	DCM	\$ \$	December 2002
Apply Performance Management to resources and outputs Policies 1,5	National and local performance indicators	Government and local targets specified in B V Performance Plan	DCM	\$ \$ \$	September 2001
Complete and maintain staff reviews and implement training Policies 2,6,17	Applicability of training plan to Service delivery	All staff developing their roles in accord with this implementation plan	P S Manager + Unit Managers	\$ \$ \$	September 2001

Action	Indicator	Target	Who by?	Priority	By when?
Employ additional BCO to improve access, security, energy consumption, and waste recycling in buildings Policies 2,3,7,15	Numbers of Buildings attaining new standards	100% of new buildings showing positive features meeting Agenda 21 +Crime reduction + Accessibility targets	New BCO with Economic Development Unit., Local Plans Unit and D C officers	\$\$\$	Officer in post April 2002 Target by Sept 2002
Produce and negotiate policy with Parish Councils for them to monitor breaches of Planning Control Policies 2,8,9,11,12	Level of acceptance and adoption by Parish Councils	Agreement of 30% of Parish Councils to implement policy	P S Manager + D C Manager +Legal Services Manager	\$	December 2002
Disseminate customer charter and plain English versions of all Supplementary Planning Guidance for comment Policies 8,9,14,16,17	Circulation level and response	25% response rate of which 75% acceptance or with suggestions for achievable positive improvement	Planning Services Manager +Unit Managers + Admin	\$\$\$	June 2001 ongoing
Produce policy for public to address Committee site visits Policies 3,9,12,14	Committee resolution	Introduction of policy allowing public to address site meetings	P S Mr + D C Manager + Legal Services Manager	\$\$	September 2002
Review all documents in the light of feedback from stakeholders Policies 8,9,12,14,15,16,17	Number of new documents issued	All Supplementary Planning Guidance revised	D C Manager + Local Plan Manager and teams	\$\$	December 2002

Action	Indicator	Target	Who by?	Priority	By when?
Active involvement in review of financial and accountancy services Policies 7, 10, 12, 16, 17	Level of improvement in cost accounting	User friendly new IT system and pro tem assistance from Accountancy Service	Building Control Manager + Best Value Review team	\$\$\$	September 2001
Prepare and implement a project plan for the Local Plan review Policies 11, 13, 15	Dates for achieving milestones	Local Plan to committee in July, etc.	Local Plan Manager	\$\$\$	July 2001, ongoing
Implement consultation on the Local Plan Policies 8, 9, 16, 17	Level of access to stakeholders achieved	All relevant stakeholders in appropriate manner/forum	Local Plan Manager and team	\$\$\$	September 2001
Develop Council's web page/ internet access and advertise it Policies 8, 9, 16	Level of access to e-mail	?	All	\$\$	March 2002
Prepare an Enforcement priority policy Policies 1, 11, 14, 17			D C Manager	\$\$	March 2002

30/5/01