

**COMMITTEE:** SCRUTINY BOARD

**DATE:** 14<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2004

**SUBJECT:** TERMS OF REFERENCE OF BEST VALUE SCRUTINY PANEL

**REPORT BY:** DIRECTOR OF SCRUTINY

**CONTACT OFFICER:** GEOFF BOCUTT

546073

**IMPLICATIONS:**

LEGAL

COMMUNITY SAFETY

EQUALITIES

ENVIRONMENT

FINANCIAL

CONSULTATIONS

STAFFING

OTHER

**WARDS AFFECTED: NONE**

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### **PURPOSE**

1. The purpose of this report is to ask the Board to extend the terms of reference of the Best Value Scrutiny Panel.

### **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2. **Scrutiny Board is recommended to reconsider the terms of reference of the Best Value Scrutiny Panel and extend them so as to give the Panel all the powers of a scrutiny committee including the ability to report to the Council and to the Executive if they so decide.**

### **BACKGROUND**

3. At the meeting of the Board on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2003 the Board established a Best Value Scrutiny Panel and determined its terms of reference as to:
  - Consider proposals for the programme of best value reviews and approve the programme.

- If requested by the appropriate scrutiny committee to consider and review the project plan for each review prior to submission to the scrutiny committee for approval
  - If requested by the appropriate scrutiny committee to consider and review best value review reports at the scope, vision and options & improvement plan stages
  - Monitor the progress of best value reviews being conducted by scrutiny committees
  - Provide advice and guidance from the Members' perspective to scrutiny committees in respect of their conduct of best value reviews
  - To monitor the production and submission to the appropriate scrutiny committees of post implementation evaluation reports.
  - To keep under review the quality of the Council's best value process and its effectiveness in driving service development and improvement as well as delivering best value.
4. However the Board did not determine the powers of the panel in terms of where it could report. The effect of this is that whilst the panel can report to the Board and to the scrutiny committees it may not report directly to the Executive or to the Council.

#### **REPORT**

5. There could be circumstances where the Panel would wish to report to the Executive and where to do so through the appropriate scrutiny committee would cause an unreasonable or inconvenient delay.

#### **PROPOSAL/OPTION**

6. It is therefore suggested that the Board reconsiders the terms of reference of the Panel and extends them so as to give the Panel all the powers of a scrutiny committee including the ability to report to the Council and to the Executive if they so decide.

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS** **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D**

7. Report 7.1 to the Board on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2003
8. Minute 28 of the Board on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2003
9. Report 6.2 to the Board on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2003
10. Minute 31 of the Board on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2003