

TO: CHANGE BOARD - 25TH SEPTEMBER 2002

SUBJECT: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT BEST VALUE REVIEW

FROM: THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT BEST VALUE REVIEW TEAM

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The review team chosen to look at this subject comprised the following officers:-

Michael Hunt	Strategic Director (Finance) - Policy Services
Lyn Edwards	Corporate Finance Manager - Policy Services
Jane Jack	Head of I.T.
Tony Rees	Leisure - Finance & Administration Officer
Andrew Dunnell	Head of Finance
Richard Barr	Audit Services Manager
Mervyn Miles	Financial Services Manager
Marcus Miskinis	Principal Accountant
Roger Wyton	Principal Accountant

1.2 From the beginning of the project in February of this year, there have been changes in the make up of the team as employees have left. Mervyn Miles retired at the end of March, and Michael Hunt resigned from the authority with effect from 30th June 2002.

1.3 In order to ensure an appropriate level of knowledge at the accountancy level, two Principal Accountants were drafted onto the team to replace Mervyn Miles.

1.4 It is essential that the Council's Section 151 Officer is involved in this review, and hence Jeremy Jaroszek has taken over as the lead officer for the review, following Michael Hunt's departure.

2. PROGRESSING THE REVIEW

2.1 There have been significant staff absences during the period of the review. The Financial Services Manager's post has been vacant for six months and the Payments Manager is still on secondment to the County Council whilst working on the payroll project.

2.2 From the Policy Services finance's side, in addition to the loss of Michael Hunt, the Corporate Finance Officer will be retiring at the end of September. There is likely to be a minimum delay of three months in making an appointment to that post.

- 2.3 Given the current consideration of the Council's overall structure, the pressures on the senior finance staff that are still available, and the restructure proposals that might follow from this review, there will need to be serious assessments made on the priorities for completing the review.
- 2.4 The attached report details what has been done to date to get to Interim Report stage, and includes the proposed next steps. It is not clear at this stage, just what resources will be available to complete those steps. The matter will be re-assessed as the various restructure and appointments issues are resolved, and in the light of the Change Board requirements.
3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
- 3.1 It is appreciated that the attached report contains many pages, and could be a daunting prospect to assimilate the whole document. If time is limited, section 6 of the report contains conclusions of the work to date and indicates what needs to be done.
- 3.2 As far as the Appendices are concerned, a good idea of the full picture can be achieved by reading Appendix C, and Appendix D along with Section 6 of the report.

Andrew Dunnell,
Head of Finance.

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For further information about this report please contact:

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