

Best Value Performance Indicators

Under the auspices of the Government, the Audit Commission (AC) monitors the performance of all Councils. It measures performance using a set of 'Best Value Performance Indicators' (BVPIs) which are set by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM). Circular 03/2003 changed the publication date of the Council Plan to 30 June each year in order to provide actual, rather than estimated, out-turn performance information. It should be noted, however, that this information will be unaudited at the publication stage. Every year, after the external audit, the ODPM collates BVPI figures from all Councils and publishes reports on their comparative performance. The comparative tables and background data are available through their website at:

www.local-regions.odpm.gov.uk/bestvalue/indicators/indicatorsindex.htm

Readers are asked not to consider individual BVPI performance in isolation but to group sets of them together in order to gain a fuller, overall picture of performance.

The following tables provide information about all the BVPIs that relate to the activities of ESCC and are grouped in the same order as the chapters and key objectives in earlier sections of this Plan.

The tables provide:

- a definition and reference number for each PI;
- ESCC audited figures for 2002/03;
- ESCC actual out-turns and targets for 2003/04; and
- ESCC targets for 2004/05 to 2006/07.

There is also an information section that shows:

- the average performance for all Counties in 2002/03 where this is available; and
- a comment where there are significant variances on our performance year on year or between targets and either estimate or actual out-turns or where contextual information is helpful.

Some BVPIs are to be deleted by the ODPM from the list on which we are obliged to report. Where this is the case we have still provided evidence of our performance in 2002/03. In some cases new BVPIs have been introduced for 2004/05. It is not always appropriate to set targets for these BVPIs in the first year which will, in these cases, be used to establish baseline data.

Please refer to key objectives in the main body of the Council Plan or contact names and numbers for each BVPI section. Where estimated outturns are used instead of 'actuals' they are indicated with an (e) after the outturn figure.

Finance Best Value Performance Indicators

Calculations of all financial BVPIs has been completed in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Best Value Accounting¹. Under the code, County Councils are required to account on the basis of "total cost", rolling in capital charges. Revenue Outturn (RO) forms have been adjusted to reflect that change.

¹ *Best Value Accounting - Code of Practice*, CIPFA, February 2000

The following guidance has been issued by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and applied by ESCC

“Some BVPIs are concerned with the cost of providing a service, e.g. cost of waste collection per household. Increases in inflation will impact upon the costs being reported upon. It is important that targets set are clear about what successful performance means in real terms. Changes in pay and prices do need to be taken into account when presenting performance for 'cost' BVPIs with the targets set in earlier years. In setting targets authorities should use the GDP deflator updated annually by HM Treasury, which provides a measure of price change over time in the domestic economy be used by all local authorities when adjusting their targets for cost BVPIs”.

Details are at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/Economic_Data_and_Tools/GDP_Deflators/data_gdp_fig.cfm

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