

B REPORT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER

Best Value Review Inspections

- 1 At the last Council meeting, I reported on the position regarding the Best Value inspections of both Trading Standards and Emergency Planning. The authority has commented on the draft reports produced by the Best Value Inspectorate and final reports are still awaited.
- 2 Regarding the recent inspection of Roads and Transport Services which finished on 1st November, draft reports for both areas are expected before Christmas.

National Performance Indicators

- 3 The Council has recently completed the calculations for producing its actual figures for all the required Best Value and Audit Commission national performance indicators for 2000/2001. They were submitted by the due date of 31 October. It is expected that the Audit Commission will publish all authorities indicators for comparison by the end of December.

Local Performance Plan

- 4 Work is already underway to prepare the Council's Local Performance Plan for 2002/2003. Among the main recommendations from the statutory audit of the 2001/02 plan was the need for the authority to improve the quality, completeness and timeliness of performance information as well as improving the quality of the Best Value Review process.
- 5 Preparation of next year's plan will include wider consultation with partner organisations, earlier involvement with members and staff and improved data management for performance indicators. A timetable for the production of the plan is in place with a final version scheduled to be presented to the Council at its meeting on 24 January 2002.

Modernising meeting at INLOGOV

- 6 I recently attended an Institute for Local Government (INLOGOV) meeting at which the role of the Cabinet and Scrutiny Committees was discussed. An excellent debate took place regarding the effect of modernisation on local authorities, and I was able to inform attendees about the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in Buckinghamshire. In particular, I cited the example of the good work carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Environment in relation to flooding within the County.

**BILL CHAPPLE
DEPUTY LEADER**