



Office of the
Deputy Prime Minister

Creating sustainable communities

Planning Development Control Division
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All Chief Executives of all planning
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5 November 2004

Dear Chief Executive,

Best Value Performance Standards 2005/06: Consultation

I am writing to you to set out the Government's Planning Best Value Standards proposals for 2005/2006.

The attached consultation paper: *Proposed Planning Best Value Performance Standards for 2005/06: Consultation* sets out the proposals and invites your comments.

This consultation concentrates solely on planning standards. We are issuing proposals at this time to avoid any delay in introducing the standards for April 2005. The assessment period for determining the authorities subject to standards is 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004. If your authority is not one of those listed in the consultation as subject to planning standards in 2005/06 please treat this document as for information only.

The Cabinet Office, Code of Practice on Written Consultation generally specifies a twelve-week period of consultation. However, the Central Local Partnership memorandum of understanding between central and local government permits a six-week period as an acceptable length of consultation. Anthea Nicholson, from the ODPM sent a letter to your Chief Planning Officer on 25 October 2004 outlining the timing and time frame for the consultation. For the purpose of this consultation paper, the consultation period will last six weeks, and by only focussing on proposed new planning standards, it is expected that this will provide ample time for considered responses.

The Government welcomes responses to the proposals on performance indicators and targets contained in this consultation paper by **Friday 17 December 2004**. The Government will analyse and consider all responses received up to the close of this date.

The preferred method of response is to the ODPM via email. Please email a copy of your response to barry.johnson@odpm.gsi.gov.uk

Consultees are asked to provide responses in the following format:

Name of Organisation
Contact details
Comments on proposed thresholds

Comments on proposed standards

However, if you do not have access to the Internet, please send an unbound response, to arrive no later than **Monday 20 December 2004** to:

Barry Johnson
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Publication of responses

It is normal practice in an exercise of this type for responses to be summarised and to be made publicly available. It will be assumed that respondents accept that the contents of their responses may be made public, unless they indicate that all or part should be regarded as confidential. The feedback from the consultation will be made available from March 2005.

I have sent a copy of this letter to the Chief Planning Officer of the local planning authorities in England, the Local Government Association and to selected other stakeholders.

Yours sincerely,



John Stambollouian