

8. PAYMENT OF INVOICES WITHIN 30 DAYS

**Report By: Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing
and County Treasurer**

Wards Affected

County-wide.

Purpose

1. To consider the performance against this performance indicator during the financial year 2002/03.

Background

2. The Government has set a performance target of 100% for 2002/03 for the payment of undisputed invoices within 30 days.
3. The Strategic Monitoring Committee requested that reports go to each Scrutiny Committee on the Council's performance against the Payment of Invoices within 30 days Best Value Performance Indicator target.
4. Action has been taken, both corporately, in the Social Care and Strategic Housing Directorate and in the County Treasurer's Department, to achieve preferably the target of 100%, or if not an appreciable improvement in performance.
5. The latest data for the Council as a whole, and for Social Care and Strategic Housing in particular, does show a significant improvement compared with performance in 2001/02. The improvement is partly because of appropriate changes in the calculation method of the data. Also, managerial action being taken in the Social Care and Strategic Housing Directorate is also having its effect.
6. The attached Appendix 1 shows the latest Social Care and Strategic Housing performance information for 2002/03. The annual percentage for Social Care and Strategic Housing is 82.8% compared with 77% in 2001/02 but the Committee will note that the performance figures for last six months are much improved. Problems did occur with a number of Social Care invoices in March in relation to the transfer over to payment electronically. As these invoices are now paid electronically they will however all count as having been paid within 30 days in future.
7. All the percentages shown relate to payments to outside suppliers in accordance with the terms of the performance indicator. The data shown is, from the date of housing transfer, Strategic Housing only. Internal transfers are not included.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be noted.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.