

COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT – DRAFT SELF ASSESSMENT

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks Members' approval to the Council's Draft Self-Assessment, subject to comment.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 As part of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment process, the Authority has to prepare and submit a Self-Assessment report. An initial draft was prepared and recently considered by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees. It was also circulated both internally and to key partners for early information and comment. All the comments received have now been considered and the initial draft edited down and revised in the light of comments received. It is now before Members for further consideration and approval. A copy of the draft Self Assessment will be despatched to Members separately.

3 DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS

Content

- 3.1 The Audit Commission guidance around the document is very detailed. The Self Assessment needs to address the following four questions and ten themes and also provide an introduction to the District.

<u>Question</u>	<u>Themes</u>
What is the Council Trying to Achieve?	Ambition; Prioritisation; Focus
How the Council sets about delivering its priorities for improvement?	Capacity; Performance Management
What Improvements has the Council achieved/not achieved to date?	Achievement of service quality; Achievement of improvement; Investment
In light of what the Council has learnt, what does it plan to do next?	Learning; Future Plans

- 3.2 A maximum of four sides for each key question and four sides for the introduction is allowed. At the conclusion the Council needs to score itself and present a one-sided high level action plan. In scoring the themes, the following methodology needs to be employed:

<u>Score</u>	<u>Definition</u>
1	Weak
2	Weaknesses outweigh strengths
3	Strengths outweigh weaknesses
4	Strong

3.3 In addition, each of the themes is weighted as follows:

<u>Theme</u>	<u>Weighting</u>
Ambition	1
Priorities	1
Focus	1
Capacity	1
Performance Management	1
Achievement in Services	3
Achievement in Improvement	3
Capacity	2
Learning	1
Future Plan	1

3.4 Overall, this scoring methodology will impact on the overall assessment for the Authority, with the following categorisation being employed

<u>Score</u>	<u>CPA Category</u>
15-29	Poor
30-35	Weak
36-41	Fair
42-47	Good
48-60	Excellent

3.5 The Self-Assessment provides the starting point for the CPA inspection.

Timeframe

- 3.6 Once considered and approved with or without further amendments, the draft will be used as a basis for the Peer Challenge which is scheduled for 17-19 November. The draft will then be reviewed in the light of the comments arising from the Peer Challenge and resubmitted to Members through the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in December, prior to being submitted for final approval to Council on 18 December. The document will then be submitted to the Audit Commission and will form one of the main elements for the CPA inspection of the Council next February (23rd-27th February).

4 RISK IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Strategic

It is clearly important for the Council to achieve as good an assessment as is possible, and to use the process in such a way that it has the maximum positive impact in terms of securing improvement across the Authority.

4.2 Operational

The process should identify any areas of particular operational risk. Whatever the categorisation placed upon the Authority, the CPA through the improvement process will impact upon the overall operation of the Council.

4.3 Regulatory

A poor or weak score from the Self-Assessment is likely to increase the potential for involvement in the operations of the Authority from external agencies such as the Audit Commission, the Improvement and Development Agency and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM).

4.4 Financial

A poor or weak score from the Self-Assessment may increase the resource demands on the Authority in terms of securing the improvement and development of the Council.

4.5 Reputational

A poor or weak score has the potential to damage the overall reputation of the Authority.

4.6 People

A poor or weak score has the potential to negatively impact upon the morale of both members and staff and make recruitment at both Member and officer level increasingly difficult.

5 RECOMMENDATION

5.1 It is proposed that the Council RESOLVES

To approve the Draft Self Assessment, subject to further consideration and comment.

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Background Papers

None

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