
PROPOSALS FOR COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FROM 2005 – A FURTHER CONSULTATION

1 SUMMARY

This report details proposals put forward by the Audit Commission for changes to the framework for CPA assessments from 2005, and seeks feedback on these proposals.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 The Audit Commission's proposals, outlined in the consultation, cover the following changes to the CPA process:

- an emphasis on outcomes for local people
- a more challenging corporate assessment, looking at focus and diversity, contribution to shared priorities, and the council's lead in the community
- an assessment of the management of resources
- a reduction in the level of inspection for individual service blocks, to be replaced by performance measurements (forming part of this consultation)
- a rules-based scoring system for determining the overall categorisation
- an assessment of direction of travel for all authorities

2.2 The Audit Commission have advised (since this consultation document was published) that proposals for CPA assessment of district councils is still being shaped and will form the basis of a further consultation in March 2005.

2.3 The consultation is requesting responses from councils on a number of questions detailed in Appendix B.

2.4 The Audit Commission has requested comments by 18 February 2005.

2.5 A copy of the consultation paper has been placed in the Members' Library for information. A link to the website version is given in appendix A.

3 SPECIFIC CONTENT

A summary of the Audit Commission's proposals are contained in Appendix A.

4 OFFICER RESPONSE

4.1 Officers have considered the questions posed within the consultation paper and the suggested response is as outlined in Appendix B.

5 RISK IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Risk

- 5.1 The authority's failure to fully evaluate the proposals contained within the consultation document, and respond accordingly, could result in the Council working with a structure for future CPA assessments which is not best suited to Rochford.
- 5.2 Failure to develop Rochford's working practices to meet the proposed criteria (if adopted), will result in a poor CPA assessment.

Resource Risk

- 5.3 Staff are taken away from service delivery for CPA assessments.
- 5.4 The Audit Commission's contention that these proposals will result in a reduction in inspection, has yet to be tested.

Operational Risk

- 5.5 The delivery of services could be adversely affected during the CPA process.

Reputation Risk

- 5.6 The CPA assessment directly affects the authority's reputation.

Information Risk

- 5.7 Poorly structured measurements of performance for the individual service blocks could result in invalid comparisons with other authorities.

Regulatory Risk

- 5.8 Failure to adopt a new approach will impact on future CPA assessments.

Third Party Risk

- 5.9 Failure to develop partnership working will impact on the corporate assessment, which will look at the council's contribution to shared priorities.

6 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

The proposals include a service block assessment of community safety.

7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Development of the criteria to be considered for corporate assessment, and the use of resources, will necessitate a review of the Council's objectives, and the means for delivery.

8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Changes to the CPA framework would be statutory.

9 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

The emphasis on partnership working will impact on delivery of services at parish level.

10 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

Subject to Member consideration and comments, to agree the responses detailed in appendix B.

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Background Papers:

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