

COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT – SELF ASSESSMENT

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report presents the Council's Corporate Self Assessment, which will be despatched under separate cover, for consideration and approval for submission to the Audit Commission.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 As part of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) inspection, the authority has to prepare and submit a corporate self assessment, which the Audit Commission states is the principal reference point for the assessment process.

3 DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Audit Commission guidance around the self assessment is very detailed and indicates that the self assessment needs to be structured into two sections:-
- Context and summary – general background information and details of the environment in which the Council operates
 - Corporate assessment – addressing three headline questions and five themes, set out in the “Key Lines of Enquiry” guidance document and summarised below:-

Question	Themes
1. What is the Council, together with its partners, trying to achieve?	1. Ambition for the community 2. Prioritisation
2. What is the capacity of the Council, including its work with partners, to deliver what it is trying to achieve?	3. Capacity 4. Performance management
3. What has been achieved?	5. Achievement and improvement

- 3.2 The self-assessment and must be based on evidence, as the inspectors may challenge any statement made within it.

3.3 Performance against each of the five themes will be scored:-

Score	Definition
4	Well above minimum requirements. Performing strongly.
3	Consistently above minimum requirements. Performing well.
2	At only minimum requirements. Adequate performance.
1	Below minimum requirements. Inadequate performance

3.4 Each of the five themes is weighted:-

Theme	Weighting
(1) Ambition	2
(2) Prioritisation	2
(3) Capacity	2
(4) Performance management	2
(5) Achievement and improvement	7

3.5 The Council's assessment will depend on its total score, calculated by multiplying the score on each theme by the weighting, then adding the results together:-

Category	Required Score
Excellent	45-60
Good	36-44
Fair	28-35
Weak	21-27
Poor	20 or less

- 3.6 Drafts of the Corporate Self Assessment were considered by the Executive Board on the 26 March 2008, the Review Committee on 15 April and the Executive Board again on 23 April.
- 3.7 Council will be advised at the meeting of any further changes that are being proposed following the Executive Board meeting.

4 RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 A failure to improve the current “weak” assessment may have a negative impact on the Council in terms of reputation, additional regulation/audit and difficulty in attracting and retaining the right Members and staff. As the assessment framework moves from CPA to Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) in 2009, regulatory attention is likely to be more focussed on those areas where there are weaker partners. As part of the project planning for the CPA assessment a risk assessment has been completed and steps taken to address the risks identified.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The reassessment process will involve a considerable amount of work by both officers and Members. The impact on officer time is being managed by prioritising workloads. The process will incur some costs which can be met from Building Capacity Funding that the Council has received, from existing CPA/Best Value budgets and from salary savings identified during 2007/8. Good links have been made with a number of other local authorities who have recently been through CPA reassessment in order to learn from their experiences and to assist in preparing efficiently for the reinspection.

6 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 It is proposed that the Council **RESOLVES**
- (1) subject to any comments, to approve the self-assessment.
 - (2) that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to make any final amendments to the self-assessment.

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Background Papers:-

Audit Commission:

1. Guidance to District Councils in completing Self Assessments for Corporate Assessment
2. CPA – District Council Framework from 2006.

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