
APPENDIX

**COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT
IMPROVEMENT PLAN: UPDATE ON PROGRESS**

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report includes the CPA Progress Assessment Report published by the Audit Commission in December. In the light of that report, Committee's views are sought on the main areas for improvement focus. Also, Members views are sought on the key areas/activities/ outcomes to be monitored in 2006/2007 as part of any revised Performance Management Framework adopted by the Council.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Audit Commission published its interim progress assessment on the Council in December. In its report, the Audit Commission stated the Council was progressing well in a number of areas. A copy of the report is attached as Appendix A. A number of positive statements are made about the Authority, although the report highlights a number of areas where work still needs to be done. In the "Summary and Recommendations" pages, key issues to be addressed are contained in paragraphs 10 and 11.

3 DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Since the publication of the Commission's report, the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive have met with the Relationship Manager, Mr Ian Davidson, representatives from our external auditors, Pannell Kerr Forster, and the ODPM to discuss the key issues the Council should continue to concentrate on. These can be summarised as:
- Production of a Corporate Plan
 - Review and upgrade of the Performance Management System, with greater transparency and linkages between the various elements
 - Development of cost comparison/value for money concepts in service development and the budgeting process.
 - The member decision making process around planning.
 - Further development of the council's risk and business contingency planning culture and systems.

-
- 3.2 As Members will be aware, work is already underway in all these area. It is envisaged that the Corporate Plan, a revised Performance Management system and the work around the Planning Committee will be completed in time for the new municipal year. The other two issues, around Value for Money/Cost Comparisons and Risk and Business Continuity are matters that we will continue to need to work on and embed within the budget process.
- 3.3 Attached as Appendix B is the Key Policies and Actions for 2006/2007 report considered by Council on 22 February 2006 and the minutes from that meeting. To aid with the production of a revised Performance Management system for the new municipal year, it would be helpful for Members to indicate those key projects and service developments which should be regularly monitored by the Policy, Finance and Strategic Performance Committee under the new Committee system once it is up and running.

4 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Committee recommends to the Policy and Finance Committee:-
- (1) That, subject to member comments, those areas for focus arising out of the CPA progress report be noted.
 - (2) The key projects and service developments in 2006/2007 which should be regularly monitored by the Policy, Finance and Strategic Performance Committee in any revised Performance Management System.

Paul Warren
Chief Executive

Background Papers:

None.

For further information please contact Paul Warren on:-

Tel:- 01702 546366
E-Mail:- paul.warren@rochford.gov.uk