



Report to Cabinet

Subject: Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA)
Corporate Reassessment submission

Date: 12 July 2007

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1. Purpose of the Report

- To inform members of the Audit Commission's decision on the Council's request for a corporate reassessment as part of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) programme.

2. Background

On 24 May 2007, I reported to Cabinet our intention to submit a case for a corporate reassessment as part of the CPA programme.

The report outlined the process involved in the context of the overall CPA programme.

A reassessment submission was duly forwarded to the Audit Commission in late May.

3. The Commission's Decision

The Audit Commission reassessment panel met in mid June. The panel wrote to the Council on 25 June confirming its decision. Their decision is that the council will not be included in the recategorisation programme.

We are seeking further clarification of the decision from the Commission and will update the meeting with any further information.

4. A way forward

The chances of securing CPA recategorisation for the Council are now very limited. Though provision is made for appeal against the panel's decision, it is felt such a course of action would be counter-productive.

It nevertheless remains important for the Council's progress towards excellence to be externally validated.

Other external assessment opportunities will therefore be sought out against which our progress can be benchmarked. This is likely to include a strengthened emphasis on the Use of Resources element of CPA, which is likely to continue under future Comprehensive Area Assessment arrangements (also flagged in my report of 24 May 2007). The importance of securing continued improved performance against national and local performance indicators, particularly those relating to priorities, remains critical if the Council is to be recognised as excellent in this context.

The Council also needs to ensure its preparedness for the new CAA regime, working closely with partner agencies as appropriate.

5. Recommendation

Members are recommended to note the report.