



Report to Cabinet

Subject: Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA)
Corporate Reassessment

Date: 6 December 2007

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1. Purpose of the Report

- To inform members of the outcome of the Council's application for CPA Corporate Reassessment.

2. Background

Members will recall that it was decided to re-apply for CPA Corporate Reassessment earlier this year, after concerns were raised at the reasons for the Council's initial reassessment application being turned down.

A further application was therefore submitted for consideration by the Audit Commission's Regional Panel in September 2007.

CPA is due to be phased out by the end of 2008, to be replaced by Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) in 2009. CAA will focus on performance across a geographic area, rather than the performance of an individual authority. 2008 therefore represents the last opportunity for the Council's progress towards excellence to be externally assessed and recognised.

3. Proposal

Notification was received from the Audit Commission in November that the Council has been accepted on the CPA corporate reassessment programme.

After negotiation with Commission staff, it has been agreed that the week-long on-site assessment will take place w/c 14 July 2008. This will require the Council to submit its self-assessment document to the Commission by 5 June 2008.

The Commission will publish its final report, including the CPA category, on 11 November 2008. There will be opportunities between the on site week and the final publication for the Council to see and respond to a draft report.

Further details will be discussed and agreed in a set-up meeting to be arranged between the Chief Executive, the Audit Commission Team Leader and myself in the near future. Outcomes of these discussions will be shared with members.

The IDeA Corporate Peer Review, scheduled for 11-14 March 2008, will now act as a "dry-run" for CPA. Peers will be asked to assess the Council against the CPA Key Lines of Enquiry (against which the Council will address its Peer Review self-assessment). There will be a limited window of opportunity for areas for improvement identified in the Peer Review to be addressed prior to the CPA assessment.

4. Resource Implications

The timescale for both reviews is challenging and will require targeted staff resource to produce self-assessment documentation and work with Commission and IDeA staff to arrange review schedules.

Policy and Performance employees already face a challenging schedule over the next six months. Tasks include a full review of Gedling BC performance indicators resulting from the announcement of the new National Performance Indicator set; progression of the review of the Sustainable Community Strategy; support for a review of the Gedling Partnership arising from its recent Peer Review and production of a new four-year Strategic Corporate Plan. All are essential to give the Council the best chance of securing an "excellent" CPA rating.

It is however hoped that the requirements of the review processes can be accommodated from with existing resources.

5. Recommendation

Members are recommended to note the report.