



## **Report to Cabinet**

**Subject:** Peer Review Self-Assessment

**Date:** 7 February 2008

**Author:** Head of Strategy and Performance

### **1. Purpose of the Report**

- To inform members of the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) Peer Review Self-Assessment document.
- To remind members of arrangements for that review and to outline the approach to ensuring all members are aware of the review and associated matters.

### **2. Background**

Cabinet has supported the proposal that the Council undergoes an IDeA Peer Review in 2008.

The Peer Review has been arranged to take place from 11-15 March 2008. Preparatory work is already well underway, including development of a self-assessment document, which forms the key piece of evidence against which the Peer Review team will assess the Council's performance.

Peer Review can be carried out against a number of assessment criteria, depending on the aspirations of the authority under review. Once it was confirmed that the Council had been included in the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) corporate reassessment programme later this year, it was agreed that the Council should use the Peer Review as a "dry-run" in preparation for CPA, which has been scheduled for on-site work in July 2008. The self-assessment is therefore being developed against CPA Key Lines of Enquiry.

The Peer Review self-assessment document has to be submitted to the Peer Review team on 15 February 2008. Cabinet endorsement is therefore sought for the document prior to its submission to the Review Team.

### **3. Progress**

#### **Self-Assessment**

At the time of writing, the self-assessment was at the final stages of production. It is intended to table the final draft for members' consideration at this meeting. Members' comments on the draft between now and the review date would be welcomed.

#### **Preparation for the Review**

Timetables and schedules of meetings, visits, focus groups and review sessions are currently in preparation. It is likely that the review team will want to meet with most portfolio holders at some time during the review week and with other members including Scrutiny Committee Chairs. Details will be shared as soon as they become available.

The review team has been appointed and details are included in the leaflet attached at **Appendix A**. That leaflet also includes further details of the review process for members' information.

#### **Member engagement**

After discussion with the Leader of the Council, it is proposed to hold a briefing session for all members prior to Council on 27 February 2008 (briefing to start at 6.00pm). At this meeting, I will outline the review process in more details and its links with CPA, run through the review timetable (including final report date) and circulate copies of the attached leaflet and the final self-assessment to all members for their information. There will also be an opportunity for members' questions.

#### **Lessons for CPA**

The timing of the review allows a limited opportunity for the Council to put in place improvements identified by the review team that may strengthen its position for the CPA assessment. In particular, it should be possible for the self-assessment to be strengthened to reflect learning from CPA. It however worth noting that the evidence presented in the Peer Review self-assessment is likely to be substantially the same as that presented for CPA, although it should be possible to add in unaudited performance indicator returns for 2007/08 if these are available by mid-May.

#### **4. Resource Implications**

The cost of the Peer Review is being fully subsidised by the East Midlands Improvement Partnership. The cost to the Council will therefore be restricted to the cost of expenses for the team.

#### **5. Recommendation**

Members are **recommended** to: -

- Note the Peer Review self-assessment
- Note the proposals to inform all members of the review.