



Meeting **CORPORATE STRATEGY & CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE**

Date **11 OCTOBER 2004**

agenda item number

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive

CORPORATE SELF-ASSESSMENT 2004

Purpose of Report

1. To inform the committee of the process undertaken by the council to produce the self-assessment. The report also sets out the council's current position and the scores required in the Corporate Assessment in November to reach 'excellent'.

Background

2. In Mid-November 2004, the Audit Commission will carry out a Corporate Assessment of the Council. The outcome of this inspection will determine whether the council is rated as 'excellent'. As part of the preparations for this inspection the Council is required to produce a self-assessment of its achievements and progress since the 2002 CPA report. The self-assessment is submitted to the Audit Commission prior to the on-site inspection.

The Self-Assessment

3. The Council's self-assessment has been produced by the Policy and Performance Team in the Chief Executive's Department with guidance from Andrew Muter, Assistant Chief Executive. The format for the self-assessment is provided by the Audit Commission. They ask three questions for each of nine themes:
 - i) How have we built on and sustained the strengths identified in the 2002 corporate assessment?
 - ii) How have we addressed the weaknesses identified in the 2002 corporate assessment? How much progress have we made?
 - iii) What other progress has been made?

The nine themes are: Ambition; Focus; Prioritisation; Capacity; Performance Management; Achievement of Improvement; Investment; Learning; Future Plans.

4. The strengths and weaknesses identified in the 2002 report provided the starting point for the 2004 self-assessment. Members of staff across the

Council have been involved in providing up to date evidence of our achievements, progress and future plans.

5. A reference group has been formed with representatives from all front line and support services. They have assisted in the collation of evidence; checking that policies are being applied consistently across the authority; communicating directly with chief officers and departmental management teams to keep the informed of the process. The reference group is also moderating the self-assessment to determine the scores for each of the nine themes (see paragraph 7 below).
6. The evidence presented in the self-assessment includes service user surveys, consultations with service users and customer feed back from roadshows etc. By increasing our understanding of what our customers think about our services, this information contributes to creating an accurate picture of the council.

Achieving 'Excellent' Status

7. In the 2002 assessment our scores for corporate ability were as follows:

Theme	Un-Weighted Score	Weighted Score
Ambition	4	4
Focus	3	3
Prioritisation	3	3
Capacity	2	2
Performance Management	3	3
Achievement	3	9
Investment	3	6
Learning	3	3
Future Plans	2	2
Total Theme Score		35
Overall Corporate Assessment Score		3

8. To achieve an overall CPA judgement of 'excellent' we need to improve our corporate assessment score. A score of 36 would maintain our good rating and enable us to be judged as excellent overall. We need to score 40+ for the corporate assessment to be rated as excellent, however our overall judgement is not dependent upon this.
9. We are aiming to achieve increased scores for Capacity and Future Plans, and maintain our scores in all other areas.
10. At the time of writing this report, the self-assessment is still in draft form and the scores have not yet been agreed. The Committee can, if it feels appropriate, look at the self-assessment after the inspection and compare with the actual results to determine how effective we are in assessing our own achievements and progress.

RECOMMENDATION

11. It is recommended that:

The Committee considers the process used to carry out the CPA self-assessment.

Andrew Muter
Assistant Chief Executive