
REPORT TO:	FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM:
DATE OF MEETING:	22ND JULY 2004	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	<u>DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE</u>	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	IAN REID (5790)	DOC: s:\cent_serv\committee reports\finance and management\22 july 2004\cpa improvement priorities - ir.doc
SUBJECT:	COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT – IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES	REF: IR/SAC
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: FM02

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 The improvement priorities detailed at Annexe A be agreed.
- 1.2 The CPA Working Panel be renamed Improvement Panel with the Terms of Reference detailed at Annexe B.
- 1.3 Members confirm or review the membership of this panel in the light of the revised Terms of Reference.

2.0 Reason for Urgency

- 2.1 To inform Members of the outcome of the Round Table meeting held on 14th July and put in place the Improvement Panel without any undue delay.

3.0 Purpose of Report

- 3.1 To inform Members of the Council's proposed improvement plan which concludes the Comprehensive Performance Assessment process. The report also makes recommendations about how Members will monitor and drive the planned improvement programme.

4.0 Detail

- 4.1 Following the receipt of the CPA Final Report the Council has reviewed its Corporate Plan for the period 2004/07, and in particular the Milestones for the current year 2004/05. Advice from the Audit Commission indicates that Councils should not respond to CPA reports through new or additional action plans but should shape and modify their existing Corporate Plans to respond to the key messages in the CPA report.

- 4.2 A draft CPA Improvement Priorities document was discussed at a meeting of the CPA Working Panel on the 16th June and this document was revised in the light of comments and discussions at that meeting. A final draft of this document, which incorporated two minor amendments suggested by the District Auditor, was circulated to all Members on the 9th July 2004 prior to its formal discussion at a CPA Round Table meeting which was held on the 14th July.
- 4.3 The purpose of the CPA Round Table meeting is for the Council and its external regulators to meet and agree a plan which details the Council's improvement priorities following Comprehensive Performance Assessment. The meeting was Chaired by the District Auditor who is also the Council's Audit Commissions Relationship Manager. He was accompanied by his Audit Manager and two representatives of the Government Office for the East Midlands. The Council was represented by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Carroll, the Chair of Finance and Management, Councillor Wilkins and the Corporate Management Team.
- 4.4 The meeting was a successful one where the Council's proposed improvement priorities were agreed by the team of external regulators without amendment. The District Auditor will now write to the Council making proposals for his audit and inspection programme which will be designed to support the achievement of the Council's improvement priorities.
- 4.5 Having agreed the key improvement priorities the Council will need to consider how these are delivered. It is proposed therefore that the current CPA Working Panel be renamed the Corporate Improvement Panel with the Terms of Reference detailed at Annexe B. It is proposed that this panel will receive quarterly monitoring and progress reports on Council performance generally as well as the Corporate Plan and key projects, including the improvement plan. Meetings will be held at least four times per year and would make recommendations to Officers, Policy Committees and Council with a view to ensuring satisfactory outcomes in relation to performance and improvement.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The bulk of the proposals within the proposed improvement priorities are already incorporated in the Council's Corporate Plan and spending proposals, as modified by the recommendations of the recent Service and Financial Planning Working Panel. It is not anticipated that the additional proposals within this document will have a significant financial impact but a report will be brought to Members at a future date should the proposals which underline these improvement priorities not be deliverable within current resources.

6.0 Corporate Implications

- 6.1 All Council's have a statutory responsibility to deliver Best Value and the delivery of an agreed improvement plan is requirement of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment process which underpins the Government's best value framework.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 The CPA Final Report identified areas for improvement for the Council which we had already highlighted in our own self-assessment. It is not surprising therefore that the majority of milestones and actions within our agreed improvement priorities already feature in the Council's three year Corporate Plan. However the CPA process has helped us identify further actions which will strengthen our improvement plans and help us to deliver better services for the community of South Derbyshire. The challenge of delivering improved services from our existing resources means that we will need to do things differently in future as well as facing some difficult choices regarding the services we deliver.

8.0 Background Papers

- 8.1 Comprehensive performance Assessment Self Assessment
Audit Commission CPA Final Report