



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All – Corporate Issue

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:
Cabinet

17th June 2002

Comprehensive Performance Assessment

Corporate Self Assessment Statement

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To inform Cabinet of the Self Assessment of the Council's Performance in preparation for the Comprehensive Performance Assessment of the Council.

2. Summary

- 2.1. The Government's White Paper "Strong Local Leadership - Quality Public Services" introduced a Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) for all Councils in England. The purpose of the CPA is "to measure the value added by the local authority. How much does the council contribute to making this a better place to live?" The rationale for CPA comes from Best Value Review Inspections which found that good services exist where there is a strong corporate framework. There will now be an annual assessment of the performance and health of the authority to identify gaps and weaknesses. The authority will then be "scored" and the inspection regime will be tailored to areas where improvement is required. The results of the assessments will be published and councils will be categorised as:

- High Performing
- Striving
- Coasting
- Poor Performing

3. Recommendations

Members are asked to note:

- ❖ the report was considered by the Organisation Working Party. It was signed off by the Leader and the Chief Executive and sent to the Audit Commission on 29th May as required.
- ❖ the main story in the self-assessment (summary attached) and the strengths and weaknesses set out in the report.

4. Report

4.1 The Audit Commission is responsible for undertaking the CPA and they have set a very tight timescale. The first year focuses on top tier authorities and there are two main parts to the CPA: an assessment of six service areas and a corporate assessment. The service assessments are based on existing performance and inspection information. Where service areas have not yet been inspected, one inspection will take place. In Leicester, this means Best Value inspections of the Highways and Transportation review and the Housing Repairs Service.

4.2 The first stage in the corporate assessment is for the authority to carry out a self assessment of its corporate performance. The self assessment must be an honest view, demonstrating self awareness of performance and is limited in length to twenty pages plus a one page action plan. This self awareness statement provides the basis for the inspection of the authority and is scrutinized.

4.3 The statement seeks to answer the following questions:

- ❖ What is the Council trying to achieve?
- ❖ How has the Council set about delivering improvement?
- ❖ What has the Council achieved/not achieved to date?
- ❖ In the light of what the Council has learnt to date what does it plan to do next?

An introduction, "Setting the Scene" and a one page Action Plan are also required. All departments contributed to the self assessment.

4.4 The inspection will be over two weeks by a team of six inspectors, including a member and senior officer from another authority. The inspection will include observation of meetings, interviews with members and officers, public consultation and other reality checks of the organisation.

4.5 The timetable is:

ACTION	DATE
Submit Self Assessment	29 th May
Discussion with Inspection Team	14 th June
Corporate Inspection	17 th to 28 th June
Feedback from Inspection	Week beginning 1 st July
Housing Inspection	24 th June to 5 th July
Highways Inspection	1 st to 5 th July
Publication of assessment	November 2002

4.6 The CPA will score services in two ways; how well they are performing and prospects for improvement. The corporate assessment will be only on our prospects for improvement. The results will be published in November 2002 and made available to

every household within the city. The outcome of the assessment will be used to shape the Council's review and inspection programme for the following year.

5 Financial and Legal Implications

5.1 There are no specific financial or legal implications arising out of this report

6 Consultations

Internal:

Directors Board

Joy Brindle, Cultural Services and Neighbourhood Renewal

Mike Hotson, Housing

Adrian Paterson, Education and Lifelong Learning

Jackie Edwards, Guy Wisbey, Environment, Regeneration and Development

Graham Pritchard, Social Care and Health

Jon King, Resources, Access and Diversity

Mark Bentley, Communications Unit

Policy and Performance Team

External:

District Audit: Andrew Blackburn and Chris Leeland

ID&eA: Andy O'Brien

7 Background Papers

White Paper: "Strong Local leadership, Quality Public Services", December 2001

"Delivering Comprehensive Performance Assessment. Audit Commission, March 2002

Self Assessment Guidance, version 5.8. Audit Commission, May 2002

8 Other Implications

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within Supporting information	References
Equal Opportunities	NO		
Policy	NO		
Sustainable and Environmental	NO		
Crime and Disorder	NO		
Human Rights Act	NO		
Elderly/People on Low Income	NO		

Report Author/Officer to contact:

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