



Corporate Governance Committee - 28 September 2009

Comprehensive Area Assessment update

Report of Client and Performance Lead

(This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Nicola Wilson.)

Executive Summary

This report summarises the timetable for the publication of the findings by the Audit Commission of both the Organisational Assessment for Taunton Deane and the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) for Somerset.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to summarise the timetable for the results of the Organisational Assessment and the Comprehensive Area Assessment.

2. Background

- 2.1 CAA is the new inspection regime which came into effect in April 2009. It looks at how well local services are working together to improve the quality of life for local people. For the first time, local public services will be held collectively to account for their impact on better outcomes. CAA will look across councils, health bodies, police forces, fire and rescue services and others responsible for local public services, which are increasingly expected to work in partnership to tackle the challenges facing our communities.
- 2.2 It is a joint assessment made by a group of independent watchdogs about the performance of local public services, and how likely they are to meet local priorities. Assessments will be made publicly available, in print and online, and provide an annual snapshot of quality of life in the area.
- 2.3 It will give people information about how well services are delivered locally, and help them make decisions in their communities, in their own use of services, or perhaps where they live.

3. CAA Organisational Assessment for Taunton Deane Borough Council

- 3.1 The feedback on Taunton Deane's organisational assessment, including Use of Resources and Managing Performance will be sent to us on 19 October and will include a full narrative following the Audit Commissions inspections and Taunton Deane's organisational score. If we want to request a review of the organisational assessment or overall score, we are required to make

application to request a review with the relevant information to the Audit Commission by 23 October. We will then be informed of the outcome by 27 November.

- 3.2 On the 4 December 2009 we will receive a full narrative for our organisational assessment which will be embargoed. The public announcement will then take place on the oneplace website on 10 December. There will be a plan in place to manage the internal and external communications associated with this announcement.

4 CAA Area Assessment for Somerset

- 4.1 The Area Assessment reviews performance against three overarching questions.

- How well do local priorities express community needs and aspirations?
- How well are outcomes and improvements needed being delivered?
- What are the prospects for future improvement?

The results of the Area Assessment will follow the same timetable as the Organisational Assessment and a joint response for Somerset will be coordinated through the Comprehensive Area Assessment Partners Group which represents each organisation at a senior level.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The results of the Comprehensive Area Assessment will be reported to this Committee on 21 January 2010. Any actions resulting from this assessment will be fed directly into the Corporate Action Plan (see report).

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 Members should be aware of the CAA requirements, how they affect Somerset and Taunton Deane Borough Council and raise any issues for clarification with Officers.

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