

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL
PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT BOARD

18th MARCH 2008

AUDIT COMMISSION – DIRECTION OF TRAVEL REPORT

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Cllr Roger Hollingworth, Leader of the Council
Responsible Head of Service	Hugh Bennett, Assistant Chief Executive

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To seek the views of the Board on the recent Direction of Travel assessment undertaken by the Audit Commission

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board considers the report (Appendix 1) and makes any recommendations to Cabinet as it sees fit.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council underwent its first CPA in February 2007 and received a Poor rating. The Council has significantly improved its governance, management processes and performance since then. As part of its standard programme of audit work for every council, the Audit Commission undertakes an annual Direction of Travel assessment. The on site work was conducted in November 2007. The report is attached and Gary Stevens, the Audit Commission's Relationship Manager for Bromsgrove District will be attending the meeting to take questions from the Board.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no legal implications.

6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 Improvement is a Council Objective. The Direction of Travel offers an external assessment of our rate of improvement.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 The main risks associated with the details included in this report are:

- Loss of reputation.

- Not taking the last opportunity to remove the tag of Poor before we enter a new inspection regime.

7.2 These risks are being managed as follows:

- Setting up a project group and ensuring sufficient preparation.
- Requesting a CPA for later this year.

8 CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Obtaining a better rating, gives the public an assurance that the Council has sound governance and is well managed.

9. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The good work undertaken by the Council in this area should help us achieve the required rating.

10. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The CPA should provide further assessment of our progress in this area.

11. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Procurement Issues - the CPA will assess our arrangements in this respect.
Personnel Issues - the CPA will assess our arrangements in this respect.
Governance/Performance Management – the CPA will assess our arrangements in this respect.
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act 1988 - the CPA will assess our arrangements in this respect.
Policy - the CPA will assess our arrangements in this respect.
Environmental - the CPA will assess our arrangements in this respect.

12. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	
Chief Executive	Yes (at CMT)
Executive Director (Partnerships & Projects)	
Executive Director (Services)	
Assistant Chief Executive	Yes
Head of Service	
Head of Financial Services	
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	
Head of Organisational Development & HR	
Corporate Procurement Team	

13. WARDS AFFECTED

All Wards'.

14. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Direction of Travel, Audit Commission

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Bromsgrove District Council, CPA Report (June 2007).

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