

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL
PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT BOARD

22nd APRIL 2008

AUDIT COMMISSION – ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Cllr Roger Hollingworth, Leader of the Council
Responsible Head of Service	Kevin Dicks, Chief Executive

1. SUMMARY

1.1 To formally report the Audit Commission's Annual Audit Letter to the Board.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Board:

- i) considers the report (Appendix 1);
- ii) if appropriate, makes recommendations to Cabinet, which can be built into the new Improvement Plan.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Council underwent its first CPA in February 2007 and received a Poor rating (this was largely due to the use of historic 2005/2006 performance data). 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 provides an Annual Audit Letter, which brings together a summary of all audit work undertaken during the year. This report also include the Direction of Travel assessment, that was conducted in November 2007.

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	At Cabinet
Chief Executive	Yes (at CMT)
Executive Director (Partnerships & Projects)	Yes (at CMT)
Executive Director (Services)	Yes (at CMT)
Assistant Chief Executive	Yes
Head of Service	Yes (at CMT)
Head of Financial Services	Yes (at CMT)
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes (at CMT)
Head of Organisational Development & HR	Yes (at CMT)

13. WARDS AFFECTED

All Wards'.

14. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Audit Commission, Annual Audit Letter.

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Bromsgrove District Council, CPA Report (June 2007).

Contact officer

Name: Hugh Bennett, Assistant Chief Executive
email: h.bennett@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 881430