

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

17th DECEMBER 2009

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Corporate Management and Finance – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Laing

Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) – 2009

1. Summary

This report provides information to Cabinet on the outcomes from the Comprehensive Area Assessment led by the Audit Commission and identifies areas of focus for CAA for 2010.

2. Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

- i Receive the reports and note their content

3. Reasons for the Recommendations

To ensure Members are aware of the outcomes from CAA.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (**paragraph 8**) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;
- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (**paragraph 12 of the Code**).

Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc; whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

17th DECEMBER 2009

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

CABINET DECISION

COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT

SUMMARY

This report provides information to Cabinet on the outcomes from the Comprehensive Area Assessment led by the Audit Commission and identifies areas of focus for CAA for 2010.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is recommended to:

- i Receive the reports and note their content.

BACKGROUND

1. Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) was introduced in April 2009 as a new way of assessing local public services. It examines how well the Council works together with other public bodies to meet the needs of the people it serves. It is a joint assessment, led by the Audit Commission and includes Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, HM Inspectorate of Probation, HM Inspectorate of Prisons.
2. The CAA framework encompasses two aspects; an Area Assessment and an Organisation Assessment. The summary and detailed reports are attached as Appendices.
3. The Area Assessment focuses on local priorities and how well local public services are delivering improved outcomes for people, alongside an assessment of prospects for improvement. The assessment uses a system of red and green flags. Red flags are given where, in the inspectorates view, the action being taken in the area to improve an important outcome is unlikely to deliver the improvement sought. Where the inspectorates identify exceptional performance or improvement, or promising prospects for improvement, through innovation they will highlight it as a source of learning for others through a green flag.
4. The Organisation Assessment focuses on the Council and is made up of two elements; Use of Resources and Managing Performance. The combined assessment is given a rating of between 1 and 4 (with 4 being the highest). The Managing Performance assessment also forms part of the judgements in the Area Assessment.
5. Whilst elements of the Organisation Assessment are the same as those inspected under Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA), there is a stronger focus on being able to demonstrate what difference actions have made. The Audit Commission have stressed this is a harder test than the assessment under CPA and are therefore not expecting there to be as many highly rated authorities as under CPA.
6. The Annual Assessments of Adult Social Care and Children's Services fall within the CAA framework and have been carried out by the Care Quality Commission and Ofsted. The outcomes from these assessments for 2009 are the subject of two separate reports.

7. The co-ordination of the assessments has been undertaken by a nominated CAA Lead, Philippa Corner, who is also the CAA Lead for the other Tees Valley authorities.
8. Both the Area Assessment and Organisational Assessment details are available on a special website - www.direct.gov.uk/oneplace".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. The costs for carrying out CAA fall within the Audit Commission Scale of Fees and Charges and are accommodated within the budget.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

11. This report is categorised as low risk.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

12. The assessment covers all aspects of the Sustainable Communities Strategy.

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

13. This report is not subject to Equality Impact Assessment as it makes no proposals for service development or policy change.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

14. N/A

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 - Organisational Assessment Detail
- Appendix 2 - Organisational Assessment Summary
- Appendix 3 - Area Assessment Detail
- Appendix 4 - Area Assessment Summary

Name of Contact Officer: Lesley King
Post Title: Head of Policy, Performance and Partnerships
Telephone No. 01642 527004
Email Address: Lesley.king@stockton.gov.uk

Background Papers

Members Seminar 23rd March 2009.

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

The Sustainable Communities Act affects all wards in the Borough.

Property

This report has no implications for the Council's Capital Programme and Asset Management Plan.