

USE OF RESOURCES REPORT 2008

Report By: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

Wards Affected

None.

Purpose

1. To receive the action plan in respect of the improvement opportunities identified in the Use of Resources report 2008, Appendix 1 refers.

Financial Implications

2. None directly arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee notes and comments on the attached action plan.

Reasons

3. At the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee of 23rd January 2009 a report was received that indicated the Council's overall score for Use of Resources has risen to 3 (performing well) from a 2 (performing adequately) in 2006/07. The strong evidence of improvement was welcomed by the committee and it requested that the Director of Resources identify any opportunities for further improvement and that these should be reflected in an action plan.

Considerations

4. The Use of Resources is an assessment evaluating how well councils use and manage their resources. It is the fourth assessment carried out at Herefordshire but is also the final one under the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) framework.
5. From 2009 there is a new assessment that forms part of the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). The new assessment framework is different with an emphasis placed on outcome rather than outputs. However, the key lines of enquiry in the 2008 assessment had been amended to reflect and signal some of the changes proposed for the Use of Resources under CAA.

Risk Management

6. Failure to continue to improve in relation to the assessment criteria within Use of Resources will have a reputational impact for the Council under the CAA. The new assessment framework will start in Spring 2009 and will be much more focused on

the community's perceptions of how well the Council is performing.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None