

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>2 JULY 2010</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>ANNUAL CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2009/10</b>
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>HEAD OF POLICY AND PERFORMANCE</b>

**CLASSIFICATION:** Open

### **Wards Affected**

County-wide.

### **Purpose**

To consider a report on end-year performance for 2009-10 against the Council's key indicators and associated projects and programmes in its Annual Operating Statement 2009-10.

### **Recommendation**

- THAT (a) the report be noted;**
- (b) in response to Cabinet's request that the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee consider and make recommendations on improved performance at Key Stages 1 and 2, the outcome of the Children's Services Committee's consideration of early years and primary school performance be reported to this Committee on 29 November;**
- (c) the Committee considers whether there are any other issues that should be referred to individual scrutiny committees for further investigation;**
- (d) the Committee considers Cabinet's request that the Committee consider and make recommendations on the Local Area Agreement targets and priorities; and**
- (e) the Committee considers whether it wishes to make any other comments to Cabinet.**

### **Introduction and Background**

1. The report to Cabinet on 17 June is appended, with certain minor modifications. Cabinet noted performance for 2009-10; asked this Committee to consider and make recommendations on the Local Area Agreement targets and priorities; and has asked the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee to consider and make

recommendations on improved performance at Key Stages 1 and 2.

2. Cabinet was informed on 17 June of the 2010/11 Local Government savings package announced on 10 June 2010 by the Communities and Local Government Minister.
3. One of the grants affected is the Local Area Agreement Reward Grant. The implications of this are that information from central government suggests that the allocation for Herefordshire may be reduced by 50% which would represent a cut of £500k. It should be noted that due to uncertainty about the grant at the time of budget setting a decision was made not to budget for its receipt. However, the implications are that there will be less reserves for distribution even if the allocation had not been determined at the time of budget setting in March 2010.
4. In considering Cabinet's request that the Committee consider and make recommendations on the Local Area Agreement targets and priorities the Committee needs to have regard to the following:
  - The importance of these targets to Herefordshire is unchanged by the likely reduction in reward grant. However there are many other reasons for not continuing as planned. These might include a recent reduction in funding for the Council or its partners, a decision to reduce the number of local priorities etc.
  - The targets are almost all based on national indicators which have not been abolished. The Council and its partners are still required to report performance against these.
  - The reduction in reward grant may have an impact on delivery activity, but the prime reason for addressing these targets is to improve outcomes for individuals and communities in Herefordshire not just to achieve reward monies.
  - The likely reduction in reward grant may impact on planned performance in future if it could have funded activity beyond the end of the LAA. However this is only one of the decisions facing the Council in the months ahead. Decisions are required on all activities not just the LAA in the light of the overall level of resources available, not just reward grant.
  - The Herefordshire Partnership oversees the LAA. Its views will also need to be sought on the priorities for the future.
5. With regard to performance against education targets, at this Committee's meeting on 15 March, Members reiterated concern as to whether enough was being done to improve future performance in respect of the measures of educational achievement, particularly as regards the proportion of pupils achieving 5 good GCSE passes, including English and Maths. On 2 December 2009, the Strategic Monitoring Committee had referred the issue to the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee, that Committee considering performance at its meeting on 11 December. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed in March that the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee's consideration of performance against a range of education attainment targets should be reported back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
6. The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee accordingly considered performance against education attainment targets at its meeting on 19 March. It requested a briefing note setting out how the Service was going to improve examination results and indicating the resources needed. A copy of the briefing note produced has been circulated separately to Members of this Committee.

7. The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee then agreed on 14 June to consider a report on Early Years and Primary School performance at its special meeting on 22nd October to consider the Herefordshire Task Group report to Cabinet on 21st October and Cabinet's response.
8. It is proposed that the outcome of the Children's Services Committee's consideration of early years and primary school performance be reported to this Committee on 29 November.

## **Background Papers**

- None identified.