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Audit Commission 1st Floor Millbank Tower Millbank London SW1P 4HA



21 December 2004

To all Chief Executives

Chief Executive's Office

24 DEC 2004

Passed to:

Acknowledged:

Dear Colleague

## Joint Area Reviews and Corporate Assessment: Provisional Timetable

In the recent consultation material on proposals for joint area reviews of services for children and corporate assessments, we stated our intentions to integrate the management of the two assessments as far as possible.

We are now able to set out the proposed timetable for the assessments beginning in September 2005 and ending in December 2008. This timetable in respect of the joint area reviews must be provisional at this stage since it needs formal approval by the Secretary of State under section 20(1)(a) of the Children Act. This cannot be done until the relevant section of the Children Act comes into force in the New Year.

This timetable has been agreed between the Audit Commission as the inspectorate responsible for the corporate assessments, and those inspectorates principally involved in the joint area reviews – Ofsted; the Commission for Social Care Inspection; and the Healthcare Commission. It has also been subject to consultation with other inspectorates and commissions involved, including HMI Probation who will use the timetable to plan the best match of joint area reviews with the inspection of youth offending teams after September 2005. The timetable has taken account of:

- the overall CPA rating for the council;
- the date of the most recent corporate assessment for the council;
- the CPA scores for education and social care in 2003;
- the dates of the last inspections of council education and children's social care services;
- the latest CSCI performance assessment judgement on children's social care services;

- the latest Ofsted inspection judgement on the effectiveness of the LEA;
- information from the Healthcare Commission;
- the need to secure balanced geographical coverage during the programme.

Before September 2005 we are proposing to conduct three jointly programmed joint area reviews and corporate assessment and one stand alone joint area review. Two of the jointly programmed assessments will be scored to contribute to the 2005 CPA rating of the councils concerned. The involvement of the areas identified for joint area review pilots is still subject to confirmation.

Following approval by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills in respect of the timing of the joint area reviews, we will confirm the timetable in the New Year. This timetable will give precise dates for the reviews to be conducted from September 2005 to March 2006, and thereafter, the period within the year for reviews planned from April 2006 to December 2008.

We intend to review the timetable each December, taking account of overall performance information, including the outcomes of the new annual performance assessments of council services for children. Revisions in respect of joint area reviews will be subject to the approval of the Secretary of State.

Yours sincerely

min Bell

DAVID BELL Ofsted STEVE BUNDRED
Audit Commission

# Provisional timetable for joint area reviews and corporate assessments

#### Spring/Summer 05 pilots (4)

(subject to confirmation)

- 1 Blackburn with Darwen
- 2 Sutton
- 3 Rochdale (rating for CPA)
- 4 West Sussex (rating for CPA)

### September - December 05 (12)

- 1 Bournemouth .
- 2 Enfield
- 3 Staffordshire
- 4 Stoke-on-Trent
- 5 Slough
- 6 Herefordshire
- 7 Calderdale
- 8 Wirral
- 9 Doncaster
- 10 Stockport
- 11 Windsor & Maidenhead
- 12 Hillingdon

#### January - March 06 (16)

- Northamptonshire
- 2 Rutland
- 3 Salford
- 4 Trafford
- 5 Hounslow
- 6 Brent
- 7 Blackpool
- 8 Bristol City
- 9 North Somerset
- 10 Milton Keynes
- 11 Lincolnshire
- 12 Dudley
- 13 Wakefield
- 14 Coventry
- 15 Newham
- 16 Hackney

1 Barnet 2 Bedfordshire 3 Bexley 4 Birmingham 5 Brighton & Hove 6 Bromley 7 Buckinghamshire 8 Cambridgeshire 9 Cheshire 10 Croydon 11 Cumbria 12 Devon 13 Ealing 14 Gateshead 15 Greenwich 16 Haringey 17 Harrow 18 Hartlepool 19 Havering 20 Isle of Wight 21 Isles of Scilly 22 Islington 23 Kensington & Chelsea 24 Kingston Upon Hull 25 Kingston Upon Thames 26 Manchester 27 Medway 28 Merton 29 Middlesbrough 20 North Tyneside 21 North Tyneside 22 North Tyneside 33 North Yorkshire 34 Nottingham City 35 Oxfordshire 46 Peterborough 37 Plymouth 38 Redbridge 39 Rotherham 40 Sandwell 41 Sefton 46 Somerset	April	06 - March 07 (48)	(
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43 Sunderland			
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47 Wigan		Wigan	
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April	107 - March 08 (48)		
1	Barnsley		
2	Bolton		
3	Bracknell Forest		
4	Bradford		*
5	Bury		
6	Camden		
7	City of London		
8	Darlington		
9	Derby City		
10	Derbyshire		
11	Dorset		
12	Durham		
13	East Sussex		
14	Gloucestershire		
15	Halton		
16	Hammersmith & Fulham		
17	Hampshire		
18	Hertfordshire		
19	Kent		
20	Kirklees		
21	Knowsley		
22	Leeds		
23	Leicestershire		
24	Leicester City Lewisham		
25 26			
27	Liverpool Luton		
28	North Lincolnshire	*	
29	Northumberland		
30	Poole		
31	Richmond Upon Thames		
32	Sheffield		
33	Shropshire		
34	Solihull		
35	Southampton		
36	Southend-On-Sea		
37	Southwark		
38	St Helens		
39	Stockton-On-Tees		
40	Suffolk	)	
41	Surrey		
42	Tower Hamlets		
43	Walsall		
44	Wandsworth		
45	Warrington		
46	West Berkshire		
47	Westminster		
48	York		
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#### **April 08 - December 08 (24)** 1 Barking and Dagenham 2 Bath and North East Somerset 3 Blackburn with Darwen 4 Cornwall 5 East Riding of Yorkshire 6 Essex 7 Lambeth 8 Lancashire 9 Norfolk Nottinghamshire 10 Oldham 11 12 Portsmouth 13 Reading 14 Redcar & Cleveland 15 South Gloucestershire South Tyneside 16 17 Sutton 18 **Tameside** 19 Telford & Wrekin 20 Waltham Forest 21 Warwickshire 22 Wiltshire 23 Wokingham

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Worcestershire