

# **CORPORATE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT - SUBMISSION OF SELF ASSESSMENTS**

## **PROGRAMME AREA RESPONSIBILITY: CORPORATE STRATEGY AND FINANCE AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**CABINET**

**9TH JUNE, 2005**

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### **Wards Affected**

No Wards are affected

### **Purpose**

To agree the arrangements for the submission of the self assessments relating to the Corporate Assessments (CA) and Joint Area Review (JAR) as the first stage of preparation for the Corporate Performance Assessment (CPA).

### **Key Decision**

This is not a Key Decision

### **Recommendations**

**THAT (a) Progress on the Corporate Self Assessment and the arrangements for its completion by the due date of the 18th July, taking account of the necessity to link closely Corporate and JAR preparation, be noted.**

**and**

**(b) submission of the JAR Self Assessment and the Youth Service Self Assessment including scores, subject to any changes arising from the planned external challenge, be approved.**

### **Reasons**

Self Assessments are the initial requirement in preparation for the Corporate Performance Assessment

### **Considerations**

1. As Cabinet will be aware Herefordshire will be one of the first eight Authorities to undergo a revised Corporate Performance Assessment during the Autumn of 2005. The Corporate Performance score will arise out of the Corporate Assessment and the Joint Area Review. Whilst the Corporate Assessment focuses on the corporate capacity of the authority the Joint Area Review is an inspection of Children's Services in Herefordshire, whether they be delivered by the Council or not. Additionally because there has been no OFSTED of the Youth Service, this will receive particular attention and a separate self assessment needs to be prepared. The guidance for

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from  
Jane Jones, Director of Policy and Community on 01432 260042

this was confirmed at the beginning of May.

2. Various elements of both inspections are being piloted and the authority is learning as much as possible about the process from these sources. However, the first 'whole' pilots will only take place in June of this year and therefore our ability to learn from these will be limited.
3. The Corporate Assessment will provide the context for many of the judgements relating to the JAR, and in turn the JAR will provide, in particular, field work and conclusions on the shared priorities in relation to Children and Young People in the Corporate assessment. The interrelationship of the two inspections is explored more fully in the diagram attached as appendix 1.
4. The Authority has taken the view that the preparation for the inspection should be integrated in a single project. Contained within the project plan are a number of actions relating to the Council's journey to improvement for example, reviewing the Performance Management Framework, developing the Use of Resources statement, categorisation of partnership and projects. It is consistent with Prince 2 methodology and coordinated by the Director of Policy and Community reporting regularly to the Chief Executive and Leader. Over the course of the next few months there will be regular reports to Cabinet.
5. The first stage in preparation for both inspections is the submission of self assessment documents. In the case of the JAR the date for submission is 13th June: the corporate assessment must be completed by the 18th July. Both self assessments need to ensure partnership support. For the JAR this is secured through the Children and Young People's Partnership Board which considered an earlier draft on Monday 23rd May and for the Corporate Assessment the Herefordshire Partnership Board which will meet during the course of June. An additional requirement this time is that self-assessments need to be scored.
6. Clearly given the interdependence of the two inspections the documents must be consistent in terms of background, prioritisation and style. This is not easy to achieve since the requirements for the JAR have been prescribed since the middle of March but the outline of the Corporate Assessment has only been available since the end of April.
7. The Team Leader for the JAR, John Cordwell has already visited Herefordshire. The Team Leader for the Corporate Assessment was announced at the end of last week. He is Gary Stevens who is currently the Relationship Manager for the Audit Commission for Coventry, Dudley and Solihull. He is likely to make initial contact with Herefordshire shortly and planning will begin in earnest for the inspection which will take place from the 26th September to 7th October. However, for the JAR there will be an additional analysis week, fieldwork and a consultation with users of the services prior to the actual inspection. The timetable for the CPA is attached as Appendix 2.

## **Alternative Options**

None

## **Risk Management**

Dates for submission of the documents are clearly set out in the timetable published by the Audit Commission.

## **Consultees**

Children and Young People's Partnership Board, Herefordshire Partnership Board

## **Background Papers**

None identified.