

DIRECTION OF TRAVEL STATEMENT 2006: SELF-ASSESSMENT

PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITY: CORPORATE STRATEGY AND FINANCE

CABINET

28TH SEPTEMBER, 2005

Wards Affected

County-wide.

Purpose

To seek approval of the Council's self-assessment for the 2006 Direction of Travel Statement.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Recommendation

THAT the self-assessment for the 2006 Direction of Travel Statement be approved, subject to the addition of material that is still being collated.

Reasons

As part of the process of Corporate Performance Assessment, each year the Audit Commission produces a Direction of Travel Statement, which gives the Commission's judgement on the Council's rate of improvement. As part of the evidence considered by the Commission for this purpose, it requires councils to submit a self-assessment.

Considerations

1. A draft of the self-assessment is at Appendix 1. It has to be submitted to the Audit Commission by 30 September.
2. Following the Corporate Performance Assessment and the Joint Area Review in 2005, the Audit Commission judged the Council's rate of improvement to be adequate. The self-assessment is an important opportunity for the Council to demonstrate that it has responded by taking a firm grip on all areas of improvement and is now progressing well.
3. The self-assessment needs to be as up-to-date as possible. Some of the evidence is not yet available (for example, the material on health that will be derived from the Director of Public Health's annual report). This will be added before submission, insofar as it becomes available in time. Adjustments to be made taking account of comments to date are marked in bold type.
4. The draft has been produced in accordance with the Audit Commission's published

guidance. In particular, it specifies the three sections and the maximum permitted length of each.

5. The Council is not expected to make its own summative judgement of its rate of improvement, but it is clear that, in important respects (notably in ensuring that its arrangements for safeguarding children are now adequate), the Council has improved its performance significantly.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

Alternative Options

None. The Council is required to submit a self-assessment in line with the Audit Commission's requirements.

Risk Management

The self-assessment demonstrates how the Council is managing key risks.

Consultees

There has been no formal consultation, but partner organisations, notably the PCT and the Police, contribute information for inclusion in the self-assessment.

Background Papers

None identified.