

Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) and Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. This report describes the key milestones in the transition from Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) to Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) during 2008-09. Members are asked to note this report.

2. Overview

- 2.1. From April 2009, Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) will replace Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA), marking a significant change to the assessment regime for local authorities and reflecting proposals set out in the government white paper *Strong and Prosperous Communities*. Whilst CPA has focused on the services provided by local authorities, CAA will look at the public services that are delivered by councils and their partners and will aim to be more relevant to local people by focusing on issues that are important to their community.
- 2.2. Initial consultation has already taken place about CAA, the outcomes of which can be found in the document *Comprehensive Area Assessment – Consultation feedback and next steps* (see background papers). Further detailed proposals relating to the new framework will be published in July 2008. The key aspects of the emerging CAA framework are described in section 4 of this report. Once responses to the impending consultation have been analysed, the final CAA framework will be published early in 2009, to take effect from April 2009. The first results under the new framework will be published in the autumn of 2009.
- 2.3. It is important to note that, whilst the final CAA framework will not take effect until April 2009, the first results under the new framework will reflect performance and activity taking place during the course of 2008-09. Work is therefore now underway to ensure that the emerging CAA framework is reflected in current and future council and partnership activities. A report is being prepared for members in relation to this preparatory work and will be presented to cabinet in due course.

3. Concluding Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) Arrangements

- 3.1. All single tier and county councils will receive a final assessment of performance for 2008 under the existing CPA framework in February 2009.
- 3.2. Currently, the CPA judgement comprises a direction of travel statement, categorising whether a council is improving, and an overall performance score. These judgements are reached by assessing:

- The council's use of resources (including financial reporting, financial management, financial standing, internal control and value for money). Detail in relation to the use of resources judgement for 2008 is the subject of a separate agenda item;
- Service assessment scores (for housing, environment, culture, children and young people, social care for adults and benefits);
- The council's overall corporate assessment score (for Wirral, this means the corporate assessment which took place in 2005).

3.3. Wirral is currently assessed as a two star council, 'improving adequately'.

4. Emerging Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) Framework

4.1. It is proposed that the new CAA framework will have four elements:

- A risk-based assessment of the local strategic partnership, focusing on how well the partnership understands its communities and achieves outcomes for local people through effective prioritisation;
- A joint use of resources judgement for the area, as well as individual assessments for the local authority, primary care trust, police, and fire and rescue service.
- A joint direction of travel judgement for the area, as well as individual assessments for the local authority and fire and rescue service;
- A report of local authority performance relating to the new national indicator set.

4.2. Comprehensive Area Assessment will be undertaken by inspectorates such as the Audit Commission, Ofsted and Commission for Social Care Inspection working together. It is likely that there will be a single mechanism to report findings across all inspectorates, developed to make it easy for people to find results for their own area. Inspections will only take place in specific restricted circumstances, and may involve one inspectorate or a partnership of two or more, depending on the scope of the inspection.

5. Financial implications

5.1. There are no financial implications arising from this report

6. Staffing implications

6.1. There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

7. Equal Opportunities implications

7.1. There are no equal opportunities implications arising from this report.

8. Community Safety implications

8.1. There are no community safety implications arising from this report.

9. Local Agenda 21

9.1. There are no community safety implications arising from this report.

10. Planning implications

10.1. There are no planning implications arising from this report.

11. Anti-poverty implications

11.1. There are no anti-poverty implications arising from this report.

12. Social inclusion implications

12.1. There are no social inclusion implications arising from this report.

13. Local Member Support implications

13.1. There are no local member support implications arising from this report.

14. Background Papers

14.1 *Comprehensive Area Assessment – Consultation feedback and next steps* (Audit Commission, Commission for Social Care Inspection, Healthcare Commission, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, HM Inspectorate of Prisons, HM Inspectorate of Probation and Ofsted, May 2008)

15. Recommendations

15.1. Members are recommended to note this report.

J. WILKIE

Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Services

This report was prepared by:
Russ Glennon, who can be contacted on 8152
Jane Morgan, who can be contacted on 8140 and
Abi Davey, who can be contacted on 8027