

## **CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT BOARD**

**Venue: Town Hall, Moorgate  
Street, Rotherham.**

**Date: Monday, 10 March 2008**

**Time: 10.00 a.m.**

### **A G E N D A**

1. To determine if the following matters are to be considered under the categories suggested in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972.
2. To determine any item which the Chairman is of the opinion should be considered as a matter of urgency.
3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th November, 2007 (herewith) (Pages 1 - 3)
4. Matters Arising.
5. Comprehensive Performance Assessment (Presentation by Matt Gladstone)
6. CPA - The Harder Test Framework for 2008 - Proposals and Potential Impact (report herewith) (Pages 4 - 11)
7. Local Area Agreement Update (Matt Gladstone to report)
8. Corporate Improvement Plan Update (Lorna Kelly to report)
9. Update on Our Future (Matt Gladstone to report)

**CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT BOARD**  
**Monday, 19th November, 2007**

Present:- Councillor Sharman (in the Chair); Councillors Austen, Wardle and S. Wright.

**7. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 10TH SEPTEMBER, 2007**

Resolved:- That the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2007 be approved as a correct record.

**8. MATTERS ARISING**

Reference was made to Minute No. 2 (Performance Clinics) where it was confirmed that a Performance Clinic would be held looking at NEETS.

**9. USE OF PLANNING OBLIGATIONS**

Stephen Moralee, Development Control Manager, presented the submitted report, which outlined that Section 106 Agreements were a means of securing community benefits through the planning system. The report reviewed the benefits accrued by the Council and the measures it was taking to improve its policy and performance, by the production of new Affordable Housing and Section 106 agreements Interim Planning Statements and by implementing the action plan set out by a recent Internal Audit review.

Specific reference and detail was provided on:-

- Legislative Provisions.
- RMBC Policy.
- Financial Contributions Secured and Received.
- Other Section 106 Agreements.
- The Section 106 Process in RMBC/Internal Audit Report.
- Next Steps.
- Future Government Policy.

It was noted that the production of an adopted Interim Planning Statement for affordable housing and other matters, which were covered by Section 106 agreements, would result in enhanced levels of community benefits and commuted sums.

It was also proposed to introduce an administration charge as part of the new policy, which would help fund a Section 106 Monitoring Officer, thereby enhancing the service and benefits to the community.

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued and the following issues were raised and clarified:-

- Section 106 agreements and whether the obligations were fulfilled.
- Had any Section 106 agreement obligations been made late.
- Payment of commuted sums for affordable housing.
- Interim Planning Statements' association with the Local Development Framework.
- Establishment and funding for a Section 106 Monitoring Officer.
- Administration charges associated with the new policy.
- Seeking of greater community benefits, with the inclusion of support and maintenance for green spaces.
- Further consultation on how development of the Interim Planning Statement could be employed.
- Local needs and local aspirations needed to be considered as part of Section 106 commuted sums as a co-ordinated approach.
- Missed opportunities in the Rotherham area over the past five years and the potential for more commuted sums for the next five to ten years.
- Potential for the payment of commuted sums up front rather than at the conclusion or midway through development.
- Concerns over progress with Section 106 agreements since the Base Budget Review.
- Consultation with the community feeding in to the Compact.
- Helping and supporting financial decision making resources of the Council.
- Review of the policy through a Performance Clinic in twelve months time.

In considering all the information it was suggested that the new policy include consultations with the community plans of the Area Assemblies and Parish Councils to help inform any negotiations taking place with developers in specific areas.

Resolved:- (1) That the contents of the report be welcomed and noted.

(2) That the action plan arising from the Internal Audit Report Section 106 Agreements/Commutated Sums be implemented and taken on board as part of the preparation of the Affordable Housing and Section 106 Agreements Interim Planning Statements (IPSs).

(3) That a further report be produced to CMT in February, 2008 setting out the types of contributions which could be sought in the future as part of the Section 106 Agreements IPS to establish a view on corporate priorities for contributions.

## **10. CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE**

Lorna Kelly, Performance Management Officer, presented the Corporate

Improvement Plan Update Summary for November, 2007 and drew specific reference to the Strengths and Potential Areas to Address.

Members welcomed the areas of real improvement highlighted within the summary and drew particular attention to:-

- Children and Young People's Partnership.
- Neighbourhood Charters in place.
- Performance Management.
- Operational Efficiency and Value for Money.
- Wider Role of Members.

Of the potential areas to address it was suggested that some priority be given to the improvement in performance relating to the number of older and disabled people helped to live at home.

Resolved:- That the information and action being taken be noted.

## **11. DIRECTION OF TRAVEL**

Matt Gladstone, Assistant Chief Executive, gave an update on the Council's Direction of Travel towards the seeking of 4 Star status, the results of which would be published in February, 2008.

Messages received from the Assessment Team indicated an improvement in the various blocks, which should improve the Council's Direction of Travel rating.

Discussion ensued on the improvements made to date and the negotiations that were still needed in certain areas.

It was noted that the Council's Direction of Travel and status were of little importance to members of the public and it was difficult to ascertain how this could be quantified. Only by improving services received would members of the public acknowledge progress.

Resolved:- That the information be noted.

<b>ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS</b>
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<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Corporate Improvement Board</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> March 2008</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>CPA – The Harder Test Framework for 2008 – Proposals and Potential Impact</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Chief Executive’s Department</b>

### **5. Summary**

Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) is the existing assessment framework which measures how well council’s are delivering services for local people and communities. This will be replaced from 2009 with the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). The Audit Commission have published a consultation paper titled “CPA – The harder test framework for 2008” which invites views on the proposed changes to the existing CPA framework for its final year.

The final date for responding to the consultation is Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

This report sets out the questions the Audit Commission are consulting on and highlights how the proposed changes could potentially impact on the Council’s existing “Excellent” CPA status where known.

### **6. Recommendations**

**Corporate Improvement Board note the potential impact the proposed changes to the CPA Framework for 2008 can have on the council’s overall existing ‘excellent’ CPA score.**

**Corporate Improvement Board note the timescales for responding to the CPA – Harder Test Framework for 2008.**

## 7. Proposals and Details

### a) Introduction

This consultation document outlines the proposed changes to the CPA framework for 2008 which will provide the final publication of all CPA scores and also inform the initial Comprehensive Area Assessment from April 2009. The overall structure of the framework is proposed to remain the same to retain consistency and to minimise disruption to the transition to CAA.

This consultation document this was circulated to Corporate Management Team, Service Directorate and Performance Officers who have been asked to respond to the consultation questions (Appendix A) so a corporate response can be presented to the Audit Commission by 11<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

### b) Proposed Changes

- **Direction of Travel** – The approach to the direction of travel assessments will remain the same for 2008.
- **Corporate Assessment** - No significant changes will be made to the existing corporate assessment approach. However as each single tier and county council will have received a new style corporate assessment the current protection put in place on some council's will be removed. This removal will ensure that all council's CPA ratings will be categorised using a new style corporate assessment score, where in the past authorities receiving a new style CPA score lower than their old style score have been categorised using the higher of the two.
- **Use of Resources** - Changes have been made to the Key Lines Of Enquiry (KLOE) for 2008. A report was submitted to Corporate Management Team on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2008 presenting a RAG status report on the implementation of the revised criteria.
- **Service Assessments**

**Benefits** - In the past the Benefit Fraud Inspectorate (BFI) have undertaken the assessment of the benefits service. In 2008 this will be the responsibility of the Audit Commission. It is proposed that the service assessment score is now based on performance measures only and the enabler element score of this process is no longer collected. This will mean that the weightings of performance measures will be changed and the requirement for councils to complete an annual self assessment will be removed.

**Children's** – It is not anticipated that there will be major changes to the Joint Area Review in 2008. There may be minor modifications to the children and young people Annual Performance Assessment (APA) in 2008 and the grade descriptors. These will be subject to the findings of a review of APA 2007 and the resources available within Ofsted. This information is not yet known.

**Adult Social Care** – Few changes are anticipated for the 2008 assessment. There maybe some changes to the nature of the evidence that is collected to populate the framework. This information is not yet known.

**Environment, Housing and Culture** – The existing framework, including the weightings of performance indicators and inspection scores will be retained. Minimal proposals to the PI sets proposed include:

- removal of PI in housing block
  - changes to the existing thresholds of some measures
  - changes to data collection arrangements for measures in the housing block
- **Categorisation and Reporting** – No changes to the approach for scoring and categorisation are proposed.
  - **Flooding** – The flooding of 2007 has impacted on the performance of a number of measures used in the CPA Service Assessments and could subsequently impact on the 2007/08 data used to inform the scores. The Audit Commission are proposing to look in more details at these measures and will work with authorities to review indicators which have been seriously affected. It may include an agreement with individual authorities that particular indicators are not relevant for 2007/08 if the impact of flooding is so marked and the information is meaningless. In these cases it is proposed 2006/07 could be used to inform service assessment scores. Final arrangements have not yet been confirmed.
  - **Inspections** – This year the ‘supporting people’ inspection which contributed to the Housing Block (Housing in the Community) will no longer be valid to the assessment. Only inspections published between 1 January 2006 and 31 December 2008 will be valid for CPA 2008.

c) Impact to Rotherham MBC

The proposals contained within the document have been analysed and the table below illustrates potential impacts on each component of the CPA Framework 2008.

CPA Framework Component	Impact
Direction of Travel (DOT)	No impact – however further work is still ongoing to ensure that the improvement rate of our DOT PI's is raised in 2008.
Corporate Assessment	No impact – Rotherham's existing new style Corporate Assessment score will apply for 2008 scores – 3 out of 4
Use of Resources	<p>In summary, of the 47 new or revised criteria to be introduced in the 2008 assessment.</p> <p>Two criteria were identified as having potential risk:</p> <p><b>VFM5.1 Level 4</b> The council ensures that the range of services delivered effectively addresses statutory duties and local needs, and are delivered to high quality standards. Overall spending, including overheads and capital, consistently demonstrates best value from resources.</p> <p><b>VFM5.2 Level 4</b> The council has a track record of using high quality information and benchmarking on costs, including transaction costs and unit costs, and quality to actively manage</p>

CPA Framework Component	Impact
	performance, improve value for money and target resources. Members and managers actively use this information to review and challenge VFM throughout services and corporately.
Benefits	<p>It is envisaged based on projected performance this service block will maintain its score of 4 under the new assessment regime. There is however 2 potential risk to this service block score;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Under the new regime 2 measures will be subject to robust data quality checks this year. If either of these are 'qualified' the service block score will automatically be scored 2. CEX P&amp;Q team currently working with the benefits team to raise awareness of the current robustness of the data quality audit regime. These measures are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PM1 – Average speed of processing new claims</li> <li>- PM5 – Average speed of processing for change of circumstances</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ We are still awaiting guidance from DWP in relation to measure PM11 - % of data matches resolved within 2 months. This guidance will clarify which methodology will be used to calculate this indicator. Based on existing methodology an outturn of 90% is forecasted. Based on the proposed methodology the outturn is forecasted to be approx 86%. However if this measure declines to less than 85.9% the benefits score will drop to a 3.</li> </ul>
Adult Services	Methodology changes for scoring this block is still not known. However to ensure the score of 3 is maintained we need to be able to demonstrate that all of the indicators and areas for improvement highlighted in last years report are being progressed.
Children's	Changes to the methodology for scoring this block is not yet known. However to ensure the score of 3 is maintained we need to be able to demonstrate that all of the areas for improvement highlighted in last years report are being progressed.
Environment	<p>Based on forecasted 2007/08 data received to date it is envisaged the score for the environment block will remain at 3.</p> <p>This block only enables 4 measures to be in the lower threshold. Current forecast indicate within the block at year end there will be 3 measures in the lower threshold compared to 2 measures in 2007. The following measure is the one which is forecasted to slip into the lower threshold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BV200b – Plan Making milestone is forecasted to slip into lower.</li> </ul>



CPA Framework Component	Impact
	<p>To maintain our existing score of 3 only one more measure is allowed to be placed in the lower threshold.</p>
Housing	<p><u>Managing Council Housing</u></p> <p>In order to maintain a PI score of 3 we can not afford for any of these measures to slip into lower threshold. Based on the forecasted outturns to date no measures are expected to slip into lower threshold.</p> <p>The ALMO inspection scheduled for June 2008 will feed into CPA 2008 score.</p> <p><u>Housing in the Community</u></p> <p>The Supporting people no longer contributes to this section of the service block therefore the score is now 100% PI based.</p> <p>Based on the forecasted outturns to date no measures are expected to be placed in the lower threshold.</p> <p><u>Overall Issues for the Housing Block</u></p> <p>Based on the projected outturn data for the measures in this service block it is projected that the Housing Block will receive a score of 4 in CPA 2008, if the ALMO inspection maintains its 2 star status.</p> <p>However if the ALMO inspection score drops to 1 star the housing block can only maintain its existing score of 3.</p>
Culture	<p>This service block score is at high risk of dropping from 3 to a 2. If this is the case our overall CPA result will drop back to “Good” in 2008.</p> <p>The current status with this block is as follows: To maintain our service block score of a 3 no more than 2 performance measures can be in the lower threshold. Based on the forecasted outturn data we have received to date and the changes proposed to one of the measures we are at risk of having 3 measures in the lower threshold– hence our service block score is at risk of moving to a 2 and impacting on our excellent status.</p> <p>Risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C4 – Active Borrowers as a % of population</li> </ul> <p>This measure was in lower threshold last year. The latest figure reported in Q3 for this measure highlights this measure will remain in the lower threshold for CPA 2008. An action plan is in place to increase the number of active borrowers in the last month of 07/8.</p>

CPA Framework Component	Impact
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C5 – Resident satisfaction sport / leisure This measure is currently in lower threshold – this measure will remain in the lower threshold as it forms part of a 3 year survey.</li>   <li>• C16 – Participation of children in sport Due to proposed changes to the thresholds the lower threshold for this measure has been increased. The latest figure of 84% for C16 indicates this measure will fall from the middle to lower threshold if this measure does not exceed 85%.</li> </ul> <p>The Schools Partnership PDM's (i.e. lead officers on PE) are encouraging and promoting an increase in curricular and extra curricular activities falling within the PI definition. The Schools Partnerships own target, which applies nationally, is to reach 85% by 2008 so they are working achieve the required additional 1% whilst maintaining existing levels of performance. The Culture &amp; Leisure Sports Development Team has input into the 'quality' side of this PI, providing professional training for Teachers. Aside from this, awareness of the crucial importance of this PI for CPA is being raised with PDM's.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C13 – Cost per library visit This measure is calculated using sample survey week data to identify the number of visitors to libraries. Chief Executive's Performance and Quality Team have no information on these figures to date to project year end performance.</li> </ul> <p>No forecasted outturn figures have been received to date on a number Public Library Standard measures to make an informed judgement on the projected status of the culture block including:</p> <p>C2b – Aggregated scheduled opening hours per 1,000 population for all libraries</p> <p>C2c – Number of library visits per 1,000 population</p> <p>C11b – Annual items added through purchase per 1,000 population</p> <p>C11c - Time taken to replenish the lending stock on open access of available on loan</p>

d) Timescales

It is intended that a confirmed framework will be published in July 2008.

The deadline for responding to the consultation is Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

Internal timescales to ensure the council's response is approved prior to submitting our response to the Audit Commission:

Corporate Management Team – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2008

Cabinet – 26<sup>th</sup> March 2008

Scrutiny – 11<sup>th</sup> April 2008

Response to Audit Commission – 11<sup>th</sup> April 2008

### **8. Finance**

There are some financial implications as a result of the proposed changes.

### **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

No firm arrangements have yet been published in relation to CPA. However it is clear from the proposals that failure to improve the measures highlighted in the report could potentially result in the council's not maintaining its current 'excellent' status.

### **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

CAA will provide the first holistic independent assessment of the prospects for local areas and the quality of life for people living there. The proposals for CAA will have an impact upon the council's policy and performance agenda.

The final year of CPA will feed into CAA in 2009.

### **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

CPA – the harder test framework for 2008 – Consultation Document, Audit Commission, January 2008

#### **Contact Name :**

*Lorna Kelly, Corporate Improvement Manager, ext 2764*

*Darren Merriman, Performance Officer, ext 2764*

**Appendix A – CPA The Harder Test Framework for 2008**

Consultation Question	
1	Do you support the proposal for minimal change to the overall CPA Framework for 2008 (to be reported in February 2009)?
2	Do you agree with the proposal to remove the temporary protection of the corporate assessment scores when we determine and report the overall CPA categories in February 2009?
3	Do you support the proposal for the benefits service assessment in CPA 2008, including the proposals for taking account of data quality? If not, are there any alternative proposals you think we should consider to determine the service assessment score?
4	Do you support the proposal to make minimal changes to the PI sets and corresponding treatment and thresholds for the environment, housing and culture services assessments for 2008?
5	Do you support the proposed changes to the PI set for the environment, housing and culture assessments, including the treatment and thresholds of individual PI's?
6	Do you support the proposal to minimise the impact of the deletion of four of the housing indicators from the BVPI by using information from existing sources where possible?
7	Do you support the proposals for dealing with affected PI's in those areas that were subject to the summer 2007 flooding?