



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

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Item No.

Report of Mario Abela, Strategic Director (Governance)

Directorate: Governing Northampton

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**Corporate Performance Assessment:
Value for Money Self Assessment**

Purpose of the Report

The Council is required to submit by the end of September a Value for Money Self-Assessment as part of the next round of Corporate Performance Assessment. This report gives Members the opportunity to review the self-assessment before submission.

Recommendations

That Members endorse the Corporate Performance Assessment, Value for Money submission.

Summary

On 15 June 2005 the Audit Commission published a revised framework for CPA in single tier and county councils. "CPA – The Harder Test" provides details of the changes intended to make CPA a tougher test for councils, with a stronger focus on service users and value for money. Consultation started in July on the future overall assessment framework for district councils.

A new use of resources assessment will form part of the framework for single tier and county councils. Details of the assessment, which looks at how well councils manage their finances and deliver value for money, were published on 7 June 2005.

The use of resources assessment focuses on financial management but links to the

strategic management of the authority. It looks at how financial management is integrated with strategy and corporate management, supports council priorities and delivers value for money. It will be carried out annually, as part of each council's external audit. For single tier and county councils, the use of resources assessment will form part of the CPA framework.

All authorities, as part of this new process, are required to submit a Value for Money Self Assessment to their local appointed auditor. The self-assessment pro-forma is for council's to complete to show how well they manage and use their financial resources and achieve value for money. Single tier authorities and counties were required to return the completed pro-forma to their appointed auditor by 31 July 2005. District councils are required to return the completed pro-forma to their appointed auditor by 30 September 2005.

The Self-Assessment pro-forma has been completed in consultation with service managers to establish examples of current good practice. The self-assessment highlights areas of good practice throughout the Council and the need to ensure that this good practice is embedded across all areas. It is also important to show that lessons learnt and best practice are disseminated to all areas. The next key piece of work following the self-assessment will be to ensure that systems are in place to continue to improve value for money and that these are fully adopted.