

Name of Committee	Council
Date	Monday 22nd May 2006
Report Title	CPA Progress Report
Key Decision	No

1. Recommendations

1. Receive information provided in the report
2. Comment on the appropriateness of arrangements to address the areas identified for improvement.

2. Purpose and Brief Summary of the report

To formally present the outcomes of our recent CPA direction of travel report and to provide information on action planned to deliver the recommendations.

3. Options Available

Option Summary	
<i>a</i>	This is the only option available but this a draft action plan that will also be discussed at Government Monitoring Board on the 18 th of May and finalised by the Improvement Board

4. Relevant Background

The final report was issued by the Audit Commission on the 30th March. The report is attached as appendix 1.

The report states that the Council has made progress but that this is limited overall, however key building blocks to support future improvement and sustainable recovery such as streamlined political processes and improved Councillor leadership, are being put into place. The report goes on to state that:

- the Council's short and medium-term strategies are now clear,
- there is a stronger focus on internal improvements,
- partnership working is enhancing capacity, and
- communications are now improving

A number of specific areas that the Council needs to improve upon were identified.

The report states that the Council needs to continue to:

1. have greater focus on improving its weakest services,
2. set out longer term ambitions,
3. focus on the views and needs of local people when putting into place key strategies,
4. develop a clear understanding of its resource base to fund its future ambitions
5. formalise a learning system that captures lessons learnt from the change process
6. continue to improve performance management, specifically by reporting progress on outcomes as well as tracking progress on the management of projects
7. enhance & develop the work of ward councillors in citizen engagement.

The key action points from the report have been noted and work is underway to include these in the Corporate Plan for 2006-2007 that is currently being produced. This new Corporate Plan will bring together projects and work areas identified within the current recovery agenda as well as additional agreed priority areas

The Council has spent the past year investing in the infrastructure that will support future improvements, such as the Root and Branch review. We now have focus on service improvement. Attached to this report as appendix 2 is the work plan to address the specific areas for improvement identified above.

The Council's response to the CPA Progress Report, in the form of the attached action plan will be discussed at the Government Monitoring Board meeting on the 18th of May and then finalised by the Improvement Board thereafter.

5. Evaluation of Alternative Options

	Option	Evaluation Summary
a		This is currently the only option, however it is a draft and there are further opportunities for Councillors to comment

6. Consultees (Internal and External)

Internal	The CPA Progress report has been made available to all Councillors and staff
External	Not applicable at present

7. Compliance Issues

Links to Relevant Council Priorities	
Recovery Plan	
Direct links	
Corporate Plan	
Direct links	

Other Strategies	
Corporate Plan	Best Value Performance Plan
Local Area Agreement	Communication Strategy
Human Resources Strategy	IT Strategy

Financial Implications

It is anticipated these will be contained within the budget currently set although there maybe some further financial implications when the project plans are finalised

Legal Implications

We are required to respond to the CPA Direction of Travel report with an appropriate action plan

Crime & Disorder Issues

Crime and disorder issues are addressed indirectly within the recovery agenda.

Children Act Issues

Children Act issues are addressed indirectly within the recovery agenda

Risk Management Issues

Failure to respond to the CPA Progress Assessment report and to amend current plans for improvement will lead to a possible further 'poor' rating and ultimately could result in "intervention"

Equalities Compliance Issues

Equalities issues are key and central to all of the work of the council and are incorporated within all of the action points.

8. Background Papers

Title	Description	Source
CPA Progress Assessment	Audit Commission progress report for the Council	Audit Commission

Name	Signature	Date	Ext.
Author	Simone Wade. Operational Manager, Recovery Policy and Governance		7431
Corporate Manager	Ella Yeshin, Corporate Manager, Legal and Democratic Services		7431
Director	Mario Abela, Citizens, Governance & Finance		7870

NB: In relation to Key Decisions both the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer (or their deputies) will need to sign the report before it can be accepted by meeting services