

Report to: Finance and Performance Management Scrutiny Panel

Date of Meeting: 19 June 2007



Portfolio: Finance, Performance Management and Corporate Support Services

Subject: Council Plan 2006-2010, Local Area Agreement and Comprehensive Performance Assessment Improvement Plan – Performance Monitoring

Officer contact for further information: S. Tautz (Ext 4180)

Committee Secretary: A. Hendry (Ext 4246)

Recommendations:

That the Scrutiny Panel consider performance against objectives, targets and actions contained in the Council Plan for 2006 to 2010, the Local Area Agreement for Essex and the Comprehensive Performance Assessment Improvement Plan.

Report:

Background

1. (Head of Human Resources and Performance Management) Over the course of the last year, the Scrutiny Panel has received reports in connection with the adoption or review of the following corporate plans and strategies:

- the Council Plan for 2006 to 2010;
- the Comprehensive Performance Assessment Improvement Plan; and
- the Local Area Agreement for Essex.

2. As members will be aware, each of these important documents contains a range of priorities, objectives, actions and targets to be achieved over the short to medium-term. The Cabinet has previously agreed that progress towards the achievement of the actions and targets within each document be monitored by the Scrutiny Panel, in line with its other performance management and monitoring responsibilities.

3. Given its high-level nature, it has previously been agreed that performance towards the achievement of objectives and targets contained in the Council Plan be monitored on an annual basis. The Council Plan was adopted in April 2006 and was therefore due for its first review at the end of March 2007. In view of the countywide importance of the Council's contribution to the success of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) for Essex, performance against the LAA actions and targets adopted by the authority are subject of quarterly report to the Scrutiny Panel, alongside performance reporting on the small number of actions remaining outstanding from the improvement plan arising from the Council's first Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) in 2004.

4. A schedule setting out current progress towards the achievement of the thematic objectives and targets contained in the Council Plan is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

Performance against the various LAA priorities and targets adopted by the Council is set out within Appendix 2 to the report, and progress towards the completion of the outstanding actions from the CPA Improvement Plan is detailed in Appendix 3. Relevant Heads of Service will be in attendance at the meeting to respond to any questions raised in respect of current performance against specific actions and targets.

5. The Scrutiny Panel is requested to note current performance towards the achievement of objectives, targets and actions contained in the Council Plan for 2006 to 2010, the Council's contribution to the Essex LAA and the CPA Improvement Plan. Relevant Heads of Service will be in attendance at the meeting to respond to members' questions in respect of current performance against specific actions and targets.

Reason for Decision:

6. To ensure that the Council monitors progress and reports against the achievement of corporate priorities, countywide objectives, and improvement in those areas identified by the CPA and other improvement processes.

Options Considered and Rejected:

7. None. Arrangements for monitoring progress against priorities, objectives, and improvement have been agreed by the Cabinet and mirror those for the Council's adopted Key Performance Indicators.

Consultation Undertaken:

8. Current performance against the objectives, targets and actions contained in the Council Plan, the LAA and the CPA Improvement Plan have been reported by each appropriate Head of Service.

Resource Implications:

Budget/Personnel/Land: The respective Head of Service will identify the resource requirements for any proposals for corrective action in respect of areas of current under-performance set out in future performance reports

Council Plan/BVPP Reference: Council Plan Section 8 – 'How We Measure Our Achievements'.

Relevant Statutory Powers: None

Background Papers: None

Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act Implications: As set out in respective performance reports for individual targets and actions

Key Decision Reference: (if required) None