

# **Report to: Finance and Performance Management Scrutiny Panel**

**Date of Meeting: 14 August 2007**



**Portfolio:** Finance, Performance Management and Corporate Support Services

**Subject:** Local Area Agreement and Comprehensive Performance Assessment Improvement Plan – Performance Monitoring

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## **Recommendation:**

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

## **Report:**

### **Background**

1. (Head of Human Resources and Performance Management) As members will be aware, in line with its other performance management and monitoring responsibilities, the Scrutiny Panel is responsible for monitoring progress towards the achievement of the actions and targets set out within each document 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. Performance towards the achievement of objectives and targets contained in the Council Plan is monitored on an annual basis, and the first review of the Plan was undertaken by the Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 19 June 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.

3. A schedule setting out current progress towards the achievement of the various LAA priorities and targets adopted by the Council is set out within Appendix 1 to the report, and progress towards the completion of the outstanding actions from the CPA Improvement Plan is detailed in Appendix 2.

4. 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.

5. Members should note that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been requested to consider how the Council can become more actively involved in the LAA, particularly through the alignment of funding to secure LAA priorities, and that monitoring of progress towards the achievement of LAA objectives and targets might in future be undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or a specific Local Area Agreement Scrutiny Panel.

**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 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/Best Value Performance Plan 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