

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY INQUIRY PROJECT OUTLINE

Review Topic: Council's Performance against the key lines of enquiry to be assessed by the Audit Commission during CPA and Direction of Travel.

Investigation by: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Type: Inquiry

Objectives:

1. To understand the new CPA framework and how the KLOE's will be used to determine the Council's overall category.
2. To identify the progress made since the last assessment in 2003.
3. To identify where to focus our efforts in preparation for a future inspection in order to maximise achieving excellent status.
4. To learn from the experience of other District Councils who received an excellent judgement following CPA.

Desired Outcomes:

1. To be well prepared and have in place robust evidence of improvement to inform a future CPA inspection.
2. To achieve excellent status.

Terms of Reference:

1. To conduct an investigation into how the Council is performing against the new CPA framework.
2. To look at other District Councils rated excellent (ideally) under the new framework to explore best practice across the key lines of enquiry and their preparation for the inspection.
3. To report on the investigation's findings and make recommendations to the Executive Cabinet.

Key Issues:

1. Opportunity to learn from other excellent Councils assessed under the new framework will not be possible until the early part of 2007.

Risks:

1. Having desired outcomes beyond the capacity to deliver.

Venue: Town Hall, Market Street, Chorley

Timescale:

Start: October 2006

Finish: March 2007

Information Requirements and Sources:

Documents/evidence:

1. CPA Inspection report from 2003.
2. Direction of Travel report 2005 and 2006 (available Dec 2006).
3. CPA – District Council framework from 2006.
4. Key lines of enquiry for Corporate Assessment.
5. Key lines of enquiry for Direction of Travel.
6. District CPA – analysis of service performance information.

Witnesses:

1. Chorley Borough Council's Relationships Manager (Audit Commission).
2. Officers of Chorley Borough Council.
- 3 Partners.

Consultation/Research:

Excellent District Council's inspection reports.

Site Visits:

1. Other Excellent District Councils.

Officer Support:

Lead Officer:
Lesley-Ann Fenton (Director of Policy and Performance)

Democratic Services Officer:
Gordon Banks

Corporate Policy Officer:
Sarah Dobson

Likely Budget Requirements:

Purpose: Site visit cash **£200**

Total **£200**

Target Body¹ for Findings/Recommendations

Executive Cabinet