

Report of	Meeting	Date
Assistant Chief Executive (Business Transformation and Improvement) (Introduced by the Executive Member for Resources, Councillor A Cullens)	Executive Cabinet	04/10/07

VALUE FOR MONEY SELF ASSESSMENT

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To provide members with an update on the Council's achievements in relation to value for money since the last Audit Commission Inspection.

RECOMMENDATION

- That the report be noted.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

(If the recommendations are accepted)

- To keep member informed of the continued progress in relation to providing value for money to Chorley residents.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- None.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the central Lancashire sub region		Improved access to public services	
Improving equality of opportunity and life chance		Develop the character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	
Involving People in their Communities		Ensure Chorley is a performing Organisation	✓

BACKGROUND

6. The Council is now subject to an annual review by the Audit Commission of how it manages its resources. The review looks at five themes, namely:

- Financial Reporting
- Financial Management
- Financial Standing
- Internal Cost
- **Value for Money**

The Value for Money theme along with other themes is scored out of 4 and is reported as part of the Council's Annual Audit and Inspection Report, along with the auditor views about the performance of the Council.

The Executive Cabinet and Council have made a pledge to deliver value for money services and as such this assessment is an independent view as to whether that is being achieved.

In 2006 the Council achieved 4 out of 4, the top mark available and was one of only 3 districts in the country to do so. As with all inspection regimes the targets and expectation increase incrementally and there are some new aspects to the inspection this year, including for instance how the Council is tackling sustainability.

SUMMARY OF THE ASSESSMENT

7. The attached Appendix is the full assessment, but in summary I would make the following points:

- Costs remain comparable with our nearest neighbour but performance has continued to improve.
- The Council has continued to build on the good practices that were in place and resulted in the score received in 2006.
- We have refined and improved a number of processes so that they are more integrated and now embedded.
- Where there are issues of higher than average cost and lower performance these have been recognised and acted upon. The Council's management of partnerships has been strengthened and in particular the LSP is now starting to deliver aspects of the Community Strategy Partnership with the Council.
- The Council's progress against its own Corporate Strategy outcomes, targets and measures is good.

Within the assessment there are many other examples of progress and good practice that is resulting in the service that the public receive improving and delivering the outcomes required.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

8. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		Policy & Performance	✓

COMMENTS OF ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (POLICY AND PERFORMANCE)

9. The self-assessment clearly demonstrates continued focus and delivery of VFM and will be a key source of evidence not only for the VFM score and our Use of Resources judgement but also for the impending judgement on the Council's Direction of Travel and any future CPA re-assessment.

GARY HALL
ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION & IMPROVEMENT)

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Gary Hall	5480	13/09/07	DOF/REPORT/VFM Self Assessments