

Brighton & Hove City Council

Committee	Overview & Scrutiny Organisation Committee
Date	17 January 2005
Report of	Director of Strategy & Governance and Director of Finance & Property
Subject	Comprehensive Performance Assessment 2004 and OSOC work programme
Wards affected	All

1. Introduction and purpose of the report

- 1.1 To inform the OSOC (Overview & Scrutiny Organisation Committee) of the result of the 2004 CPA (Comprehensive Performance Assessment) score for the City Council.
- 1.2 To make a proposal to the OSOC about which elements of Cultural Services it should consider at its meeting in February as a part of the Committee's work programme on performance.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the OSOC notes the CPA score for 2004.
- 2.2 That when the OSOC considers the performance of the Cultural Services directorate in February 2005 it focuses in particular on the performance of the libraries and leisure services.

3. Background to the 2004 CPA Score

- 3.1 The CPA was introduced nationally in 2002 and the council received a CPA score of 'Good' (there are five CPA categories: Excellent, Good, Fair, Weak and Poor) in the first assessment in December. This score comprised two elements: a score for how the city is run and a score for how main services perform. The score of Good was achieved as both of these elements were scored as 3 out of 4.
- 3.2 Each of these two elements (the corporate assessment and the overall service performance assessment) was made up of other scores. Over 100 scores – many against individual performance indicators as well as inspection scores and scores for plans – go to make up the overall score.

The scores within the two elements are weighted. For services the weightings are:

- Education and Social Care x4
- Environment and Housing x2
- Libraries/leisure, Benefits and Resources x1

3.3 The CPA in 2002 included a series of inspections of services and corporate arrangements in addition to the inspections by Ofsted and the SSI. The council only just achieved a score of 3 out of 4 for overall service performance, with a score of 38. A score of 37 would have given a score of 2 out of 4 and an overall score of Fair.

3.4 The methodology for the CPA scores has remained essentially the same for the 2003 and 2004 assessments with these later assessments being a 'refresh' of the 2002 score. This means that some of the data has been new (performance indicators and some service inspections) whilst some parts of the score has relied on old data (such as Best Value Review scores and the Corporate Assessment from 2002).

3.5 The 2003 score for Brighton & Hove was 'Fair' because of a loss of one point (due to a change in the performance indicators that were used to measure housing services). The Audit Commission's 'direction of travel' statement though said that the council was improving and well placed to address the issues that had led to this change in score. For the purposes of assessing the council's need for inspection the Audit Commission continued to treat the council as a 'Good' authority which meant that we had the advantage of a lighter inspection programme than applied to 'Fair' authorities.

4. CPA 2004

4.1 The 2004 CPA score for the council is 'Good' with a numerical score of 46. The council's service score is 4 out of 4 and remains at 3 out of 4 for the corporate assessment, as this has not been re-assessed since 2002. The Audit Commission's scorecard which shows the different elements that make up the overall score and includes a 'direction of travel' statement is attached as appendix 1.

4.2 The CPA overall score of 'Good' reflects significant performance improvement across a range of services:

- The Education service is now a 3 star service, which is the top score that can be awarded. This is based on the council's rate of improvement in relation to other authorities and is due in large part to improved test results, the early years service and the work on addressing social exclusion.

- The Planning service is dealing with planning applications of all types much faster and this year received a grant of £750,000 from the Government as a reward for this. This money is enabling the council to make more improvements to the service so it can sustain the improved performance it is currently achieving.
- The Benefits Service has now achieved the top score of 4 and has been awarded extra points in recognition of its improved performance across a wide range of performance indicators. This has been achieved at the same time as the service has introduced the new Housing Allowance scheme as part of the Government 'pathfinder' initiative.
- The Housing service has managed to significantly reduce the time that homeless families spend in emergency accommodation.

4.3 Although the CPA has not raised the score for social care services this year, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) recently found some good and improved performance in both children's and adults social care services:

- The council performs well above the average for the number of looked after children that are adopted - in 2003/04 10% of looked after children were placed for adoption. The council has been successful at attracting more local people to be foster carers. There has also been a steady rate of improvement in the percentage of care leavers attaining employment, education or training.
- The council is particularly successful at providing services which enable older people to stay in their own homes rather than be admitted to residential homes. There has been a significant increase in expenditure to support a range of intermediate care services including Knoll House.

5. Libraries and leisure services CPA score

5.1 One of the core services which is given an annual score as a part of the CPA is libraries and leisure. The council has scored 2 out of 2 in each of the annual assessments since 2002.

5.2 The main evidence that the Audit Commission has used to arrive at its score for these services is:

- Libraries and leisure inspection judgements (ie Best Value Inspections that have taken place since January 2002)
- Relevant Best Value Performance Indicators (these will be highlighted on the quarterly performance report that will be presented to the OSOC in February)
- Department of Culture, Media and Sports (DCMS) assessments of annual position statement (annual library plans)

- 5.3 The methodology for the CPA is changing from 2005. The Audit Commission is currently consulting authorities on its proposals. These proposals include keeping an assessment of libraries and leisure services under the heading of 'Culture'. The Audit Commission has not yet published the details of how it will make an assessment of these services in future although it has stated that the key assessment issues will be: use, service standards, spending, satisfaction, stakeholder commentaries, quality, performance and participation.

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Financial implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report, however, as mentioned in the report, improved performance in specific areas can result in additional resources for the Council, particularly, those linked to Local Public Service Agreement "stretched" performance targets. It is important to focus on this aspect of performance alongside more general indicators of performance improvement within the CPA framework.

Finance officer consulted: Nigel Manville. 4 January 2005.

Legal implications

There are no specific legal implications which need to be drawn to Members attention.

Lawyer consulted: John Heys 22 December 2004.

Corporate/Citywide implications Using the CPA score information to assist OSOC to focus on performance information is a part of the council's performance management framework. It should contribute to the council's overall CPA score in future years.	Risk assessment None
Sustainability implications There are no sustainability implications arising specifically from this report.	Equalities implications There are no equalities implications arising specifically from this report.

Implications for the prevention of crime and disorder

There are no implications for the prevention of crime and disorder arising specifically from this report.

Background papers None**Contact Officer**

Maggie Squire. Ex 1080.