

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Agenda Item 72

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Comprehensive Area Assessment 2009
Date of Meeting: 26 January 2010
Report of: Director of Strategy & Governance
Contact Officer: Name: Barbara Green Tel: 29-1081
Tom Hook 29-1110
E-mail: barbara.green@brighton-hove.gov.uk
tom.hook@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Key Decision: No
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY & BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This is the first year of Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) judgements. Attached in Appendices 1 & 2 are the final published versions of the Area and Organisational assessments. These were published on 9 December 2009.
- 1.2 The information contained within the CAA reports will help Overview and Scrutiny Committees in prioritising agenda items.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission:
- a) Notes the findings and judgements contained within the Comprehensive Area & Organisation Assessment reports
 - b) Asks Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairs to take account of the CAA report and action plan when developing work-programmes

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

Area Assessment – summary of findings

- 3.1 Overall the assessment is very positive, highlighting good partnership working delivering outcomes locally, particularly in terms of the night time economy and reducing crime.
- 3.2 The report proposes to award a green flag for partnership working reducing youth disorder and improving the security and quality of life for people in the city at night time. The green flag reflects innovative practice and positive outcomes locally.

- 3.3 The report also identifies areas in need of improvement, these include;
- Numbers of people on JSA and numbers of children living in poverty
 - Health inequalities – men die earlier on average than elsewhere in comparable areas
 - Drug misuse, hospital admissions due to alcohol related problems and suicide rates are highlighted as areas of concern
 - Improve academic results of young people at age 16
 - Improve the delivery plan to ensure it reflects activity on how we are strengthening our communities and involving people; sustainable transport and delivering quality services
- 3.4 The thematic partnerships and PSB will review these areas for improvement and ensure that where necessary the Delivery Plan is strengthened and the focus increased on areas in most need of improvement.
- 3.5 The report also includes a red flag on housing, specifically performance against the decent homes standard for council housing stock. The red flag reflects the Audit Commission's (advised by the Housing Inspectorate), opinion that our approach on decent represents an 'unmanaged risk' and poor performance. Despite robust challenge by the council and its partners, it remains the Commission's view that achievement of the decent homes standard (DHS) by 2013 remains 'uncertain' and that 'the council and its partners need to do more to ensure contingency plans are on place so that minimum standards are met at the earliest opportunity'.
- 3.6 Decent homes performance continues to be regularly review by TMT and Cabinet to ensure that the rate of improvement continues to deliver.

Organisation Assessment – summary of findings

- 3.7 The Organisation Assessment combines and summarises the Ofsted & Care Quality Commission assessments and provides and an overall judgement for the city council, that we are 'performing well'. This is broken down into a managing performance and use of resources scores. We have been assessed as 'performing well', with the following breakdown:

1 = Performs poorly 2 = performs adequately 3 = performs well 4 =performs excellently

Managing performance	3 out 4
Use of resources	3 out 4
Managing finances	3 out 4
Governing the business	2 out 4
Managing resources	3 out 4
Service assessments	
Children's services	Performs well
Adult social care services	Performs well

- 3.8 The assessment highlights many areas of good performance including; providing good quality services for older people, the children's homes and fostering agency are highlighted as providing an outstanding service, work to support local business, improvement in numbers of young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) and high levels of satisfaction with the city as a place to live, with a strong reputation for celebrating diversity.
- 3.9 Managing our resources, finances and performance were all assessed as performing well. Governing the business was assessed as performing adequately, data quality and the level of challenge by scrutiny areas were highlighted as needing improvement.
- 3.10 The report recognises the continuing progress the council has made providing value for money and has clear plans in place for taking this work forward and has set challenging targets for the next few years.

4. CONSULTATION:

- 4.1 The Management Team and Directorate Management Teams have been consulted on the new national indicator set and on introduction of the Comprehensive Area Assessment.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The CAA is of significant reputational importance to partners, stakeholders and investors. The findings and judgements maintains the council's reputation as a well-managed organisation that makes good use of its resources, including those invested with and by partnering organisations. The council with partner organisations will review resources and performance in those areas identified as in need of improvement. Performance against the national indicator set will be reflected in the level of LAA Reward grant that is attainable subject to satisfactory progress.

Finance Officer consulted: Anne Silley

Date: 14/12/09

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Legal Officer consulted: Elizabeth Culbert

Date: 16/12/09

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The proposed new performance management framework aims to incorporate monitoring of progress against equalities and inclusion outcomes in the city.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 The proposed new performance management framework aims to incorporate monitoring of progress against sustainability outcomes in the city.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.5 The management of performance is important and contributes to avoiding the risk that the council's improvement priorities will not be delivered. Progress against performance indicators informs our risk and opportunity management assessments.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.6 Reducing crime and disorder is a central theme of the Corporate Plan and the Local Area Agreement and monitoring progress against these outcomes is a key element of the proposed new performance management framework.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 Cabinet and The Management Team will continue to have a Performance Focus sessions, this is recognised as good practice and allows for both a quarterly overview of the organisation performance against the LAA and more spotlighted discussions on areas that require additional discussion. These discussions will feed into the service planning timetable and establishment of a new corporate plan in the future. This work will drive local improvement in the future and meet the requirements of the CAA framework.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Comprehensive Area Assessment report
2. Comprehensive Organisation Assessment report

Documents In Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

None