

## Report of the Assistant Director Corporate Services (City Solicitor) to the meeting of Standards Committee to be held on 5 February 2009.

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**Subject:**

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**Audit Commissions Comprehensive Performance Assessment**

### **Summary statement:**

**Standards Committee members are invited to consider issues arising from the outcome of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment undertaken in June 2008 specifically relating to Ethical Governance and the role of the Standards Committee.**

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Assistant Director Corporate Services  
(City Solicitor)

**Portfolio:**

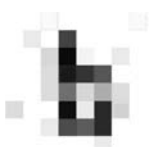
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**Improvement Area:**



2006-2007  
Improving Rural Services  
Empowering Communities



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Suzan Hemingway, Assistant Director Corporate Services (City Solicitor)



1. **Summary**

- 1.1 Standards Committee members are invited to consider issues arising from the outcome of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment undertaken in June 2008 specifically relating to Ethical Governance and the role of the Standards Committee.

2. **Background**

- 2.1 Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) was introduced in 2002. The CPA Framework draws on a range of information, such as performance indicators, assessment of corporate capacity, audit and inspection reports, and stakeholder opinions to reach a judgement about the performance of a local body. The aim is to provide residents with a report card of how their Council is performing overall compared to other Councils in England. It is designed to provide a judgement on the Council's corporate ability to improve services for local people and its leadership of its local community.
- 2.2 The Audit Commission has developed a CPA Framework which pulls together a range of information to reach an overall judgement on a Council's performance. The Framework has 4 components:
- Corporate Assessments
  - Use of Resources Assessments
  - Service Assessments
  - Direction of Travel Assessments
- 2.3 The first 3 components are combined to ensure that minimum standards are being met across the board and to generate 1 of 5 star categories (4 to 0 stars).
- 2.4 Each Council has a corporate assessment over a 3 year period. This is to assess the Council's ability to lead its local community having clearly identified its needs and set ambitions and priorities. Inspection Teams consist of 6 people, including a peer officer and peer Councillor. CPA is conducted at the same time as the Joint Area Review of Children's Services led by OFSTED or the Commission for Social Care Inspection.
- 2.5 The Direction of Travel Assessment sits alongside the star category and indicates an assessment of how likely the Council is to improve in the near future.
- 2.6 The purpose of the Corporate Assessment is to assess how well the Council engages with and leads its communities, delivers community priorities in partnership with others, and ensure continuous improvement across the range of Council activities. It seeks to answer 3 headline questions which are underpinned by 5 specific themes.

**What is the Council, together with its partners, trying to achieve?**

- Ambition
- Prioritisation

**What is the capacity of the Council, including its work with partners, to deliver what it is trying to achieve?**

- Capacity
- Performance Management

**What has been achieved?**

- Achievement

**3. Other considerations**

- 3.1 The CPA inspection took place in Bradford between 28 January and 8 February 2008. The report was published on the Audit Commission's website in June 2008. At Appendix A to this report are the Executive Summary to that report together with the identified areas for improvement and the summary of assessment scores. A full copy of the assessment report is available on the Audit Commission website at [www.audit-commission.gov.uk](http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk).
- 3.2 The Committee is asked to consider the extracts at Appendix A and to discuss ways in which the Standards Committee can assist in achieving the areas for improvement identified therein given its role within the Council's Constitution at Article 11 to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members of Council, voting co-opted members of Committees and Panels, independent members of the Standards Committee and church and parent governor representatives.

**4. Financial and resource appraisal**

- 4.1 Consideration of the issues in this report has no direct financial consequences.

**5. Legal appraisal**

- 5.1 The Standards Committee has an obligation to ensure the ethical conduct of the Council meets the standards required by the Audit Commission and the public.

**6. Other implications**

- 6.1 There are no direct equal rights, sustainability, community safety, human rights act or trade union implications arising from this report.

**8. Not for publication documents**

- 8.1 None

**9. Recommendations**

- 9.1 That the Committee consider the Comprehensive Performance Assessment process and specifically how the Standards Committee can contribute to the areas for improvement identified in the June 2008 Assessment.
- 9.2 Reason for recommendation – to ensure the Standards Committee meets its obligations in terms of the Ethical Governance arrangements of the Council.

10. **Appendices**

Appendix A – pages 6 to 10 of full Corporate Assessment

11. **Background documents**

None

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