



Performance and Finance Select Committee

18th January 2006

Report from the Director of Policy and Regeneration

For Information

Wards Affected:
ALL

Report Title: CPA Refresh

Forward Plan Ref:

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines Brent's CPA refreshed score at the end of 2005 prior to the present corporate assessment. Brent Council has been described as improving well and demonstrating a 3 star overall performance in the 2005 scorecard update. Brent has a good platform to which to build to reach 4 stars in the next twelve months and ranks alongside twelve London boroughs which are one point away from 4 stars.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the paper.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Brent London Borough Council 2005 Scorecard

The attached scorecard is the Audit Commission's assessment of Brent's service performance, use of resources and ability to run the council. This assessment occurs each December based on updated BVPI data. In April 2006 the corporate score will be updated following the corporate assessment occurring at present.

3.2 Brent's performance compared

Brent was categorised as a 'good' authority in 2004. The score in 2005 represents improved performance as councils across the country are now subject to 'CPA - the harder test', which makes it more difficult to reach this

level than previously. This is because there are raised thresholds for BVPI data, a need for consistent scores across services and a more rigorous value for money assessment. Housing's score moved to a three along with that of many other London boroughs; reflecting the harder test. Brent is well ahead of many London councils who were shown to be 'most likely to deliver housing services that are only at or below minimum requirements' by the audit commission. Brent's Use of Resources score was described as a strong three. Most boroughs previously scoring four in this area moved to a score of three and a few even moved to a two. The table below outlines the scores:

2004 Area	2004 Score	2005 Area	2005 Score
Education	3	Children and Families	3
Social Care (children)	2		
Social Care (adults)	3	Social Care (adults)	3
Environment	2	Environment	2
Housing	4	Housing	3
Libraries and Leisure	3	Culture	3
Benefits	3	Benefits	3
Use of Resources	4	Use of Resources	3

Brent's progress will be built upon with a rigorous focus on continuous improvement in all areas and a specific focus on aspects of environment including waste and recycling and improving public satisfaction across the board.

3.3 Brent and other councils

Brent features within 43% of councils which have been rated as 3 star and within 65% of councils who are improving well. Brent follows the trend of top councils, which are improving better than those in lower categories. Brent is one of eight authorities in London who are one point away from gaining 4 stars (Brent, Bromley, Hammersmith and Fulham, Hounslow, Islington, Kingston-upon Thames, Richmond-upon Thames and Southwark).

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 None.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 None.

6.0 Diversity Implications

6.1 Brent is noted for recognizing its diverse communities in this update with a number of the BVPIs testing Brent's ability to deliver on the equalities agenda.

Background Papers

Audit Commission Scorecards

CPA – The harder test

CPA – The Harder Test, scores and analysis of performance in single tier and county councils 2005

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