

	<p style="text-align: center;">Performance and Finance Select Committee 11th April 2007</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Report from the Director of Policy and Regeneration</p>
<p>For Information Wards Affected: ALL</p>	
<p>CPA Refresh 2006</p>	

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines Brent's CPA refreshed score at the end of 2006. Brent Council has been described as improving well and demonstrating a 3 star overall performance in the 2006 scorecard update. Brent was very close to reaching 4 stars this time and is alongside four London boroughs in being one block point away from 4 stars overall.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the paper

3.0 Detail

3.1 Brent London Borough Council 2006 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.

3.2 Brent's performance compared

The scores in 2005 and 2006 represent 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.

In 2006 the council has retained a score of three in all blocks apart from the culture block, where we scored two:

2005 Area	2005 Score	2006 Area	2006 Score
Children and Families	3	Children and Families	3
Social Care (adults)	3	Social Care (adults)	3
Environment	2	Environment	3
Housing	3	Housing	3
Culture	3	Culture	2
Benefits	3	Benefits	3
Use of Resources	3	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 working to address the weakest block, Culture, aspects of environment including waste and recycling and improving public satisfaction across the board.

3.3 Culture block

There has been some concern about this block and its affect on our CPA score. To have achieved four stars for the council in 2006, we would have had to move two of our four poor performing performance indicators above the lower thresholds set and move one more performance indicator above the upper thresholds set.

It is likely, according to our initial predictions that the difficulty in reaching 4 stars will remain in our 2007 CPA refresh, as a number of our performance indicator results have already been set by the satisfaction scores recently achieved in the BVPI satisfaction survey.

An analysis of scores in this block across London saw 70% with a score of 1 or 2 out of a possible 4, indicating other local authorities are having issues with this block too.

Performance in the culture block nationally has declined since 2005. Fifty-six per cent of councils are performing in the top two categories in 2006 compared to 68 per cent in 2005. The audit commission point to a London issue for culture with the only set of councils to score below minimum requirements located in London. They also note that councils in the northeast achieve the highest scores and that county councils tend to score better than other types of councils

We have voiced our concerns to the audit commission in meetings with our relationship manager, at public events about the culture block and in formal letters to the Audit Commission in both May and December of this year and in July 2005 in relation to the first announcement of harder test changes.

We have seen a change to two PIs in the block so far and we await the consultation guidance for 2007 when it will become clear whether any further changes will be made.

3.3 Brent and other councils

For the first time since CPA began in 2002, no councils are in the bottom CPA category

Brent features within 55% of councils which have been rated as 3 star and improving well.

Brent is one of four authorities in London who are one block point away from gaining 4 stars (Brent, Haringey, Richmond and Tower Hamlets) .

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 2006

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