

## LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

### Meeting of the Performance and Finance Select Committee

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> March 2007

### Report from Director of Policy and Regeneration

**Phil Newby**

For information

Wards affected: All

### Report Title: Comprehensive Performance Assessment Refreshed Score for 2007

#### 1.0 Summary

1.1 This report outlines Brent's refreshed Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) score at the end of 2007. Brent Council has been described as improving well and demonstrating a 3 star overall performance in the 2007 scorecard update. CPA is due to be replaced with Comprehensive Area Assessment in 2009. The presentation provided with this item outlines the focus for the future under CAA and offers themes for consideration when scrutinising future performance and finance.

#### 2.0 Recommendations

2.1 To note this paper and consider the presentation on CAA, particularly the themes which can be considered when scrutinising future performance and finance.

#### 3.0 Detail

##### 3.1 Brent London Borough Council 2007 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 and is now published in February.

##### 3.2 Brent's performance compared

The scores in 2006 and 2007 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 2007 the council has retained a score of three in all blocks apart from the culture block, where we scored two:

| <b>Area</b>           | <b>2005 Score</b> | <b>2006 Score</b> | <b>2007 Score</b> |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Benefits              | 3                 | 3                 | 3                 |
| Children and Families | 3                 | 3                 | 3                 |
| Culture               | 3                 | 2                 | 2                 |
| Environment           | 2                 | 3                 | 3                 |
| Housing               | 3                 | 3                 | 3                 |
| Social Care (adults)  | 3                 | 3                 | 3                 |
| Use of Resources      | 3                 | 3                 | 3                 |

It should be noted that under the Use of resources block, our financial standing was rated as four out of four. Our corporate assessment score of 3 from 2006 continues to stand in the overall calculation of our star rating.

Brent's progress will be built upon in the financial Year 2008/2009 through the different transformation projects in place across the council including in adult and children's social care and customer services. Rigorous management of progress to ensure continuous improvement will continue through high level monitoring meetings, which looks in detail at action plans for improvement in CPA blocks.

### 3.3 Culture block

There has been some concern about this block and the limits to improving its score, which has been considered in detail by the committee previously and the council's views have been clearly articulated to the Audit Commission.

### 3.4 Brent and other councils

Brent features within 46% of councils who have achieved 3 stars. 37% of councils have achieved 4 stars overall and 16% have achieved 2 stars.

### 3.5 From CPA to CAA

From April 2009, Brent council will no longer be working to CPA as this will be replaced by Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). In the financial year 2008/09 we will be preparing for this change. The Performance and Finance Select Committee role has included scrutinising progress against objectives and performance targets which relate to the councils overall CPA performance. In 2008/09 the committee will continue to follow the progress to improve waste and recycling services under the new waste contract and on occasion follow up on revenue and benefits progress. The presentation

provided with this report outlines the new framework and the themes for the committee to be aware of when scrutinising performance and finance in the future.

#### **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

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