

IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME BOARD

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Cllr Michael Ashbrook
LEAD OFFICER: Dr John Stanforth
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Summary: It is proposed to amend the scope of the Improvement Board to focus on corporate improvements. This will allow the Board to plan for future Comprehensive Performance Assessments (CPAs).

Recommendation:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To agree the change in scope of the Improvement Board, and to re-name it the 'Corporate Improvement Programme Board'2. To confirm the membership of the Corporate Improvement Programme Board as indicated in paragraph 2.63. To consider separate arrangements that focus on regeneration activities to manage improvements and the delivery of Council objectives
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Impact on delivering the Corporate Plan: The Corporate Improvement Programme Board will monitor the delivery of corporate improvement by tackling a range of issues, which will impact on all aspects of the Corporate Plan

Impact on other statutory objectives (e.g. crime & disorder, LA21):

Financial and human resource implications: Each project that makes up the Corporate Improvement Programme has individual project initiation documentation, including a detailed assessment of resource requirements

Project & Risk Management: The Corporate Improvement projects are all project managed; part of the project management process involves maintenance of an issues and risk register. The Corporate Improvement Programme Board monitor issues and risks as part of their regular meeting.

Key Decision Status

- **Financial:** None
- **Ward:** None

Other Ward Implications: None

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Following the publication of the Council's Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) report in 2004 Copeland established an Improvement Board to steer the resulting improvement plan, and the Board has been meeting regularly since August 2004. The establishment of the Board is referenced in the Full Council Paper, 'Comprehensive Performance Assessment for Copeland Borough Council', 20-Apr-04.
- 1.2 The proposals for District CPA post 2006 indicate a shift in the process of assessment, and it is appropriate that the council begins to look-ahead and plans for the future assessment.

- 1.3 This report sets out proposals for changing the scope of the existing Improvement Board to allow sufficient agenda time to prepare for the next CPA assessments.

2. SCOPE OF THE IMPROVEMENT BOARD

- 2.1 The Improvement Programme Board has been focused on monitoring the progress of a range of projects that were initiated following the publication of the Council's CPA report in 2004. To some extent, therefore it is somewhat 'backward looking' and means that the Council is focusing improvement in areas that were seen as priorities in 2003/04.
- 2.2 In June 05, the Audit Commission published revised methodology relating to CPA for single tier and county councils. At present the Audit Commission are consulting on a range of options for the process relating to CPA for Districts, but it is likely that the assessment criteria will not be dissimilar to that published for single tier and county councils.
- 2.3 In order to adequately prepare for future CPAs, it is proposed that the scope of the current Improvement Board is amended to focus on identifying and addressing areas of where corporate performance needs to improve.
- 2.4 Currently the range of projects monitored by the Improvement Board includes a number of regeneration-focused projects. These differ from the other projects currently monitored, in that they are not about corporate improvement, as the outcomes delivered won't strongly impact on areas of council's corporate performance assessed under the CPA framework– although it is recognised that they will be used as evidence to demonstrate the council's achievements.
- 2.5 It is therefore proposed to amend the scope of the existing Improvement Board to focus solely on improving corporate performance, and preparing for future CPAs. To clarify the aim of the Board, it is proposed that this Board changes its name to the Corporate Improvement Programme Board.
- 2.6 It is recommended that the membership of the Corporate Improvement Programme Board should remain as it is currently for the Improvement Board:

Chairman Deputy Leader

Dep.Chairman Director (Quality of Life)

Board Members Leader, Representative of major opposition party; Representative from P&R OSC; Chief Executive; Head of Policy & Performance; Performance Improvement Manager; Other Managers who are managing a project that forms part of the Corporate Improvement Programme

- 2.7 At present the Improvement Programme Board agendas include a number of Regeneration projects, which are managed through the same processes as the corporate improvement projects. It is proposed that the Corporate Improvement Programme Board should no longer manage these, but that alternative arrangements should be devised. Further consideration will be given to how this could happen, given the wide scope of the Council's Regeneration activities and the numbers of people involved. A further report will be made to the next Council meeting.

3. CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 It is proposed that the scope of the current Improvement Programme Board is amended to reflect an element of 'looking forward' to the methodology being proposed for CPA of Districts post 2006. This will enable the Council to identify gaps and take action to prepare adequately for any future comprehensive assessment of the council.

3.2 In order to change the focus of the Improvement Programme Board, it is proposed that regeneration-focused projects are moved out of the Corporate Improvement Programme Board scope with substitute arrangements to be agreed.

List of Appendices

Appendix A – <Appendix Title>

Appendix B - <Appendix Title>

List of Background Documents: Comprehensive Performance Assessment For Copeland Borough Council, Full Council, 20-Apr-04

List of Consultees: Corporate Team, Improvement Programme Board