

**THE COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT (CPA)**

Report of the Chief Executive

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**1. Purpose**

1.1 To explain the process of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment.

**2. Background**

2.1 Hertfordshire County Council volunteered to be a pathfinder authority for the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) as this fits in with the Best Value review of the Management of the Authority – Herts Connect Simply Done which is now in train. The CPA involves judgements being made by a variety of different methods and inspectorates and a numerical model being used to come to an overall judgement. Each authority will be placed in a category of top performing, striving, coasting or low performing depending upon their overall score. The elements of the CPA are:

- Education performance assessed by Ofsted
- Social Services performance assessed by the Social Services Inspectorate
- Fire Service performance assessed by HMI Fire
- “Gap” Best Value inspections – in Hertfordshire’s case Libraries and Highways Maintenance
- Corporate Governance inspection undertaken by the Corporate Assessment Team
- District Audit assessment

2.2 The weighting between the individual elements to make up the final judgement has not yet been decided. It is recognised however that the Corporate Governance Assessment will form an important part of the final judgement.

**3. The Corporate Governance Assessment**

3.1 The process for the Corporate Governance Assessment is as follows:

1. Preparation and submission of a self-assessment

2. Review of the self-assessment, examination of published information and liaison with partner inspectorates e.g. District Audit, the Best Value Inspectorate and Ofsted by the Corporate Assessment Team.
3. Round-table discussion for the Corporate Assessment Team (CAT) to present the initial findings of their research and discuss this with the authority.
4. Corporate Governance Inspection
5. Presentation of draft report, opportunity for the Authority to comment and challenge (two weeks)
6. For pathfinders only, four-month period during which the Authority can work on the main recommendations before a finalised ranking is given
7. Authority produces an action plan to address issues in the Assessment which is agreed with the Audit Commission.

3.2 We responded to our draft report on 27 May and will be able to present progress against the main recommendations in our report to the Commission in September before a final judgement is reached.

#### 4. **Other inspection activity**

4.1 Other inspection activity which will contribute to the final CPA assessment which is currently taking place includes:

1. The District Audit Comprehensive Performance Assessment - Assessment completed, will be reviewed before final input to the process in September
2. Social Services star rating – 2 stars
3. “Gap” inspection of Library Services – inspection completed, awaiting interim challenge 10 June
4. “Gap” inspection of Highways Maintenance – inspection completed, interim challenge 29 May, final scores awaited
5. HMI Fire – inspection completed, awaiting report
6. Ofsted star rating.

#### 5. **Pathfinding**

5.1 Being a pathfinder authority has given us an opportunity to comment on and shape the CPA process. We have taken part in a range of workshops and discussion fora and given feedback on the Corporate Governance inspection process. We will continue to be consulted at every stage of the process although it is something of a movable feast at the moment. The next stage is a workshop on action planning, this has been postponed as the Audit Commission are not yet ready to take it forward. Pathfinding has also involved senior officers in a number of speaking engagements.