

REPORT TO: Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 3 June 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Corporate & Policy

SUBJECT: Review of the Council's Corporate Performance Management Arrangements

WARDS: Borough-wide

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report and its appendix summarises the evidence collected during a review of the Council's Corporate Performance Management arrangements, and presents the recommendations of the Topic Group.

2. RECOMMENDED That:

- (1) the Board considers and comments upon the report of the Topic Group and its recommendations;**
- (2) Executive Board be requested to approve the recommendations set out in Section 5 of the Executive Summary (subject to any amendments arising from (a) above);**
- (3) the Operational Director Policy and Performance prepare an action plan including financial implications;**
- (4) a further report be submitted to this Board summarising the response of Executive Board; and**
- (5) subject to the decision of Executive Board, regular progress reports be made to this Policy and Performance Board.**

3. BACKGROUND

A Topic Group of Board Members and Officers has conducted the review of the Council's Corporate Performance Management arrangements, involving interviews, surveys, a meeting with PPB chairs, and a visit to another local authority. The review has identified recommendations for further improvement.

The report of the Topic Group is attached (Appendix 1) and the recommendations are set out in Section 5 of the executive summary.

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The recommendations in the topic report have some resource implications.

The development or acquisition of performance management software, and any associated infrastructure and support have yet to be fully investigated or costed, but there is a reasonable prospect that this can be met from within existing budgets.

The integration of partnership and Council performance systems, production of a range of tailored reports and additional quality assurance recommendations on top of the implementation of the Data Quality Strategy cannot be managed within the current resources of the Corporate Performance Team of 3 staff.

It is therefore recommended that the Operational Director Policy and Performance identifies more precisely the resource required to deliver these recommendations in conjunction with the preparation of an action plan. The speed of implementation will necessarily reflect the resources available.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy implications arising directly from this report. However, corporate performance management arrangements impact across the whole of the Council and therefore it is important that any recommendations should ensure that Halton is driving continuous improvement across its services that have a positive effect on the business and the Communities the Council and its partners serve.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None at this time.

7. RISK ANALYSIS

During the Council's Corporate Performance Assessment in 2005, whilst the conclusion was that Halton's strengths outweighed its weaknesses, with regard to the corporate performance management framework, there were still some areas for further improvement. Failure to have shown progress towards addressing these issues and incorporating new developments since 2005, such as the emergence of Local Area agreements, greater public engagement and the new National Indicator set, may impact negatively on any future CPA/CAA scores.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

None

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Notes of topic group meetings	2 nd Floor Municipal Building Kingsway Widnes	Rob Mackenzie