

Budget & Performance Panel

Data Quality Audit 2007/08 31st March 2009

Report of Corporate Performance Manager

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Members of the outcome of the annual Data Quality Audit

This report is public

1. Background

- 1.1 In July and August 2008, the council's auditors KPMG undertook a statutory audit of the arrangements the Council has in place to ensure the quality of the data upon which it relies to make its decisions.
- 1.2 The audit is conducted in 3 parts:
 - **Stage 1:** Review of the management arrangements for data quality using the Data Quality KLOE (Key Lines of Enquiry)
 - **Stage 2:** Issues arising from analytical review of 2007/08 performance data (BVPIs and key non BVPIs eg. HIP returns). This process informs:-
 - **Stage 3:** In-depth review/audit of selected sample performance indicators

2. Outcome of the Audit

- 2.1 For the financial year 2007/08, Lancaster City Council consolidated its position as an authority which is '**Performing Well**' for data quality management and is '**consistently above minimum requirements**'.
- 2.2 The audit report is attached at **Appendix 1** to this report.

3. Auditor Recommendations

- 3.1 KPMG made a total of 8 original recommendations for improvement in the coming year. However Members will see if they refer to page 7 of the attached report that

this has now has been reduced to 7 in the light of officer comment upon the draft report.

- 3.2 A recommendation which asked the council to 'automate' the transfer of performance data from existing systems to the Escendency system was considered unrealistic in the light of current budgetary pressures. KPMG have agreed to remove the recommendation. Having reviewed the KLOE, it is considered that failure to do this should have no significant negative impact upon our prospects for improvement in future years.

4. The Future

- 4.1 A target to achieve level 4 (Well above minimum requirements - performing strongly) in the forthcoming 2008/09 audit has been set. The main requirement of the KLOE which we have not previously satisfied is the effective management of Data Quality within the Council's key partnerships. It is not possible to achieve the highest level without the full co-operation of partners.
- 4.2 Work undertaken within the Local Strategic Partnership supporting the Performance Management Framework for the delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy, means that for the first time there is a realistic possibility for us to improve our Data Quality score to the maximum possible awarded.
- 4.3 However, as KPMG have very recently made us aware that there may well be changes to the audit methodology for the 2008/09 data, the target of achieving level 4 should be reconsidered at a later date to ensure that the target remains realistic.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS	
None	
SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS	
The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.	
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
The Council has a duty to continuously improve within the terms of the Local Government Act 1999 (the duty of Best Value). Legal Services have been consulted and have no further comments.	
MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS	
The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.	
BACKGROUND PAPERS	Contact Officer: Liz Stokes Telephone: 582150 E-mail: Lstokes@lancaster.gov.uk
None	