

Budget & Performance Panel

BVPI Comparison Exeter Benchmarking Group

31st March 2009

Report of Corporate Performance Manager

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Members with a comparison of the Council's performance against statutory Performance Indicators in relation to a number of similar local authorities.

This report is public

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members should note this report and may also wish to keep this information to hand for future reference when considering council's performance.

2. BACKGROUND

Within the terms of the Local Government Act 1999 the Council has a duty to seek to continuously improve its services to the local community and to manage its performance to support that improvement.

Informed comparison is a key element of performance management. Authorities are required to set targets against all national and local indicators that allow for comparison nationally, performance indicators are a good starting point for comparison work, it is always useful to see what other similar authorities manage to achieve with similar resources.

Lancaster City Council is a member of the Exeter Benchmarking Group, (sometimes called the Historic Towns Group). This is an established network of District authorities who have a similar profile based on, size, demographic and budget. Each year a detailed comparison report of authority performance based on statutory BVPI's is produced. This report is used to help other authorities seek out best practice in similar organisations.

Members may find this comparison interesting, however as it is based on the most recently available **audited** performance information for the financial year 2007/08 it is a year out of date.

The comparison document is attached at **Appendix A**.

3. THE FUTURE

Members should not think that this is the last time they will be presented with this now familiar comparison report. All BVPI's were deleted with effect from 1st April 2008. They were replaced with a set of National Indicators which focus upon the quality of life experienced by residents, rather than measuring the quality of service offered by councils. A relatively small number of these new indicators are required from district councils, the remainder will be collected the Lancashire Partnership (the County LSP) on a county-wide footprint.

The Audit Commission does not intend to produce national comparative quartiles for the new National Indicators.

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.	
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