

**Cheltenham Borough Council**  
**Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee -**  
**10th May 2004**

**Comprehensive Performance Assessment Update**  
**Report of the Community Partnerships Manager**

## **1 Summary and recommendation**

- 1.1 This report updates members on the progress of the CPA diagnostic for balancing the housing market, which is attached as Appendix A.
- 1.2 **I therefore recommend that the committee note the final draft of the Balancing Housing Markets CPA diagnostic which will form part of the council's CPA self assessment to be submitted to the Audit Commission in preparation for the council's inspection during the week commencing 12 July 2004.**

## **2 Introduction**

- 2.1 The council's CPA inspection will take place during the week commencing 12 July 2004. In preparation for the inspection by the Audit Commission they request a number of key documents including the council's CPA self assessment.
- 2.2 Part of the self assessment will involve two diagnostics one of which is balancing housing markets. The diagnostics have been designed to give the council the opportunity to advise the inspection team as to how it addresses these important issues. As guidance the Audit Commission have asked a number of questions.

## **3 Background**

- 3.1 The Audit Commission are looking for an overview of the council's activities in the areas covered by the diagnostics rather than a detailed assessment. Our submission addresses the CPA's key lines of enquiry and provides background information which will be used to guide the work of the inspectors when onsite during the inspection week.
- 3.2 Our submission will also be used as a tool to help the inspection team to evaluate the council's overall effectiveness by looking at its strategic activity, gathering evidence about how the council operates in a cross-cutting way in service areas that impact on the theme of each diagnostic.
- 3.3 In terms of the inspection activities when on site, the work on the diagnostics will not be like a detailed service inspection as there is not time for this. The focus will be on strategic matters.
- 3.4 As members are aware over recent months the balancing housing markets diagnostic

has been developed by an officer working group which represents all of the areas considered by the diagnostic. The initial draft of our submission was presented to this committee on 27 November 2003 and we have sought external guidance and advice from the Improvement and Development Agency (I&DeA). The comments we have received have been incorporated within the final document.

- 3.5 The content of the diagnostic is drawn from the many strategies, policies and performance data approved or presented to members in the past few years. But it has been constantly in need of review and amendment, for example, to reflect any comments made in the recently received report from the peer review team, evolving strategies, and the performance profile which has been provided by the Audit Commission to help the council in its preparation.
- 3.6 The lead officers for the project are at present developing the electronic version of the self assessment, which is the Audit Commission's preferred submission medium, in preparation for submission to the Audit Commission on 24 May 2004.

## 4 Implications

- 4.1 Financial None as a direct result of this report
- 4.2 Legal None as a direct result of this report
- 4.3 Personnel None as a direct result of this report
- 4.4 Equal opportunities, social justice and anti-poverty The housing services being delivered contribute to the council's equal opportunities and social justice agendas.
- 4.5 Environmental None as a direct result of this report

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### Background Papers

2 June 2003 – Comprehensive Performance Assessment - Housing Diagnostics Assessments report to Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee

27 November 2003 - Comprehensive Performance Assessment - update

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### Accountability

Councillor Clive Lloyd - Neighbourhood and  
Community

### Scrutiny Function

Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny

