

Update report

Summary

This report is designed to provide the Board with a regular update on key aspects of its work. It is intended that the report would normally cover:

- Council performance;
- Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships (RIEPs);
- LG Group performance and progress against the business plan.

Recommendations

- The Board is asked to note the report and to comment on the format and nature of future update reports
- Members' views are invited on the type of information about council performance they would find most useful in helping them understand sector performance and the improvement challenges the sector faces

Action

- Revise the format of future update reports in the light of members' comments
- Update reports to contain performance information requested by members.

Update report

Background

1. As the move to local government taking responsibility for its own performance gathers pace the Board will want to be reassured about council performance and the support provided by the sector's improvement architecture.
2. It is therefore proposed that the Board should receive regular update reports covering:
 - Council performance;
 - The work of the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships in providing sector support;
 - The progress being made by the LG Group in providing the sector support agreed through the Group Business Plan and set out in the Improvement Programme plan.

Council Performance:

3. We have been able to rely for a number of years on the evidence of council performance provided by external assessments carried out by the Audit Commission and other inspectorates for the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) and latterly the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) and the National Indicator Set (NIS). **Appendix A** to this report provides an analysis of the current data available from that source.
4. However, the CAA data will have a relatively short shelf life and the future of the NIS is unclear. A new approach to performance data is needed that makes more use of the data that councils and partners already use to manage their own performance. A separate item on Data and Digital Policy on the agenda addresses the need to drive improvement in data quality. In due course this should provide an easily accessible resource enabling the sector to monitor its performance across a range of locally important and selected indicators.
5. In the meantime the Board's Performance Support Panel, with the Political Group Improvement Boards, will continue to oversee support provided to those councils facing particular difficulties.
6. Members are invited to offer views and suggestions about the type of performance information they would find helpful in monitoring performance across the sector.

Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships

7. The Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships have provided regular reports to the Improvement Board as part of the strong governance and leadership for the RIEP Programme provided by the Board and it is proposed that this should continue. The current update is provided at **Appendix B** to this report.

LG Group Performance against the Improvement programme plan

8. It is proposed that at future meetings, the Improvement Board should receive progress reports against key elements of the Group Improvement programme plan, so that members can satisfy themselves that progress is being made in delivering the improvement support contained in the plan.

Financial Implications

9. There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.

Implications for Wales

10. There are no specific implications for Wales.