

Meeting: Executive
Date: 21 July 2009
Subject: CAA Area Assessment Key Questions
Report of: Leader of the Council
Summary: The report proposes that the Executive endorses (as the Accountable Body) the draft self-evaluation CAA Area Assessment questions conducted by the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) through the Thematic / Strategic Partnerships. The final self-evaluation will then be submitted to the Audit Commission on 31 July 2009.

Advising Officer: Richard Ellis, Director of Transformation
Contact Officer: Ian Porter, AD Policy, Partnerships and Performance
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: (All)
Function of: Executive
Key Decision Yes
**Reason for urgency/
Exemption from call-
in
(if appropriate)** The deadline for submission of the CAA self assessment documentation for Central Bedfordshire to the Audit Commission was only recently confirmed as 31st July 2009.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. That the Executive endorses the draft self-evaluation CAA Area Assessment questions for submission to the Audit Commission on 31 July 2009.**
- 2. That the Executive delegates the Theme Leads to work with partners to complete the self-evaluation before submission to the Audit Commission on 31 July 2009.**

Reason for Recommendations So that the self-evaluation CAA Area Assessment questions can be completed and submitted to the Audit Commission on 31 July.

CONTEXT

1. All council areas across the country are about to undergo a Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). This is the replacement of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment, that was previously undertaken to judge the overall performance of councils. As the name suggests, the inspection focus has now shifted from individual organisations to the area as a whole. For the purposes of CAA an 'area' is defined as a geographical location covered by a Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).
2. Although it is not a requirement to produce a self-evaluation for the Area, it is seen as good practice to do so. Also, as we are a new area, this process enables the LSP to 'tell the story' of Central Bedfordshire.
3. At the LSP meeting on 30 June the Thematic / Statutory Partnerships reported back on the draft self-evaluation for the Area Assessment. This draft self-evaluation is based on the 11 key questions that will be covered under CAA. These self-assessments will also help Central Bedfordshire develop its first Sustainable Community Strategy.
4. Appendix A contains the draft self-evaluation. This first draft focuses on content rather than style. Consequently, it is an amalgamation of inputs from different partners and authors. A consistent 'Central Bedfordshire' style will be applied to the final draft to ensure it reads as a single, coherent document.

Conclusion and Next Steps

5. Following endorsement from the Executive, work will continue to refine the self-evaluation in preparation for its submission to the Audit Commission on 31 July 2009.

| CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS |
|---|
| <p>Council Priorities: The self-evaluation and the findings from CAA will inform the first Sustainable Community Strategy for Central Bedfordshire and the refresh of Central Bedfordshire's Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Financial: None</p> <p>Legal: None</p> <p>Risk Management: None</p> |

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None

Equalities/Human Rights:

Self-evaluation considers equalities issues when looking at the impact on Central Bedfordshire.

Community Development/Safety:

Self-evaluation considers community development/safety issues when looking at the impact on Central Bedfordshire.

Sustainability:

Self-evaluation considers sustainability issues when looking at the impact on Central Bedfordshire.

Appendices:

Appendix A – CAA Area Assessment Self-Evaluation

Background Papers (open to public inspection):

None

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands