



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Central & Corporate Functions)

Date: 1st November 2010

Subject: Performance Management Arrangements

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.0 Attached as Appendix 1 is a letter from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP, detailing changes to Local Area Agreements (LAA). Essentially the letter advises local authorities that there will not be a requirement to prepare a new Local Area Agreement in 2011 and that those targets identified in the current LAA will no longer be monitored by government. In addition the letter announces the intention to replace the National Indicator Set (NIS) with a single comprehensive list a data the government expects local authorities to report on as from 1st April 2011. (The NIS has been effective since April 2008). The Secretary of State has not yet drawn up the new data list.
- 1.2 At the same time as this the Local Government Group LGG (formally LGA) is consulting on a new national performance framework for local government. The proposals as they stand would have a profound impact on performance management arrangements. The consultation document is attached for information.
- 1.3 Members will be aware that all Scrutiny Boards monitor performance management on a quarterly basis, therefore on the back of the Secretary of State's letter, the Chair has invited the Head of Corporate Policy and Performance to today's meeting to discuss how these changes will affect performance management reporting in Leeds.
- 1.4 Members may also wish to take the opportunity to seek an update on the review of the Councils own performance management framework as identified during last months discussion on DECATS (Delivering Efficient Corporate and Transactional Services). Members will recall that performance management was one of seven themes identified as one that could deliver the greatest financial benefit to the Council.

1.5 The national changes to performance reporting and the local review are still at a very early stage therefore definitive answers to Members' questions may not be available, however, the Chair was anxious that that this Scrutiny Board had early discussions on the likely outcomes as judging performance against target is a key way for Scrutiny to hold decision makers to account.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Members are asked to;

- (i) Note the attached letter from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, The Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP
- (ii) Discuss with the Head of Corporate Policy and Performance the possible consequences for the performance management regime of Leeds City Council and its partners.

Background Papers

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Planning, Policy and Improvement) - DECATS (Delivering Efficient Corporate and Transactional Services) - Scrutiny Board Central and Corporate Function – 4th October 2010