# **GROUP PERFORMANCE REPORT**

# **Central Services**

# 26<sup>th</sup> May 2004



#### 1. **PRFORMANCE OVERVIEW**

- 1.1 This covering report provides details of performance against Corporate Performance Indicators and Corporate Key Commitments made in the Council's Best Value Performance Plan (BVPP) 2003/2004.
- 1.2 In the current BVPP, 2003/2004, Central Services are responsible for 17 key commitments and 33 Performance Indicators (PIs). 13 of these PIs inform the CPA scorecard with 2 of these 13 being considered High-Risk indicators (High-Risk indicators are those where the Audit Commission will pay extra attention to the audit trail and may look in detail at the underlying data collection process).
- 1.3 There are 22 BVPIs in which 2003/04 performance can be compared to 2002/03 performance. Comparative performance is shown below: -

	Number	Percent
Improved	11	50%
Same	1	4.5%
Worse	10	45.5%

1.4 There are 29 BVPIs with an applicable target, 11 (38%) of BVPIs are meeting the target set and 18 (62%) are not meeting the target set.

#### 2. **PROGRESS ON BVPP COMMITMENTS** (Appendix A)

2.1 Good progress was made in 2003/04 with 10 commitments achieved, 6 commitments were not achieved and 1 commitment cannot be calculated yet due to information required from social services.

#### 3. **PERFORMANCE INDICATORS MEETING TARGETS** (Appendix B)

3.1 There are 29 BVPIs with an applicable target. Performance is meeting or exceeding target in 11 (38%) performance indicators, see Appendix B.

#### 4. **PERFORMANCE INDICATORS NOT MEETING TARGETS** (Appendix C)

4.1 There are 29 BVPIs with an applicable target 18 (62%) performance indicators are currently not meeting target, these include 8 indicators that inform the CPA scorecard. There are three areas of concern these relate to BVPIs relating to; human resources, finance and public satisfaction.

- 4.2 The human resources BVPIs of concern are:-
  - BV 011a percentage of the top 5% of earners that are women (CPA)
  - BV 011b Percentage1.6% of the top 5% of earners from black and minority ethnic communities (CPA)
  - BV 012 working days lost due to sickness absence per full time employee (CPA and High Risk)
  - BV 016a percentage of employees declaring that they meet the 1995 Disability Discrimination Act disability definition (CPA)
- 4.3 Discussions with HBS regarding previous and current data collection practises raised further questions regarding reliability of data, which required further investigation. A full investigation into previous data collection methods and the robustness of the current system has been undertaken and steps have been put into place to ensure that the data provided is robust. However, where performance in the Human Resources BVPIs has changed significantly from previous years this is mainly due to differences in data collection and does not necessarily constitute a change in performance.
- 4.4 The financial BVPIs of concern are:-
  - BV 09 Percentage of council tax collected (CPA)
  - BV 079b Percentage of recoverable overpayments (excluding council tax) recovered in the year.

For both these indicators performance has deteriorated from 2002/03. Council officers are in discussions with HBS staff to ascertain the reasons for this deterioration in service and to identify actions required to ensure that performance is improved.

- 4.5 There are two BVPIs relating to customer satisfaction. These are based on surveys that are undertaken tri-annually.
  - BV 03 Percentage of citizens satisfied with services provided
  - BV 04 Percentage of complainants satisfied with the handling of their complaint

In both of the above indicators performance has significantly decreased compared to the results of the previous survey undertaken in 2000/01.

#### 5. Targets set for 2004/05, 2005/06 and 2006/07 (Appendix D)

5.1 Targets are required for 28 BVPIs details of the targets set are shown at Appendix D.

Karen Robinson Corporate Performance Manager 10<sup>th</sup> May 2004.

#### **APPENDIX A – COMMITMENTS 2003/2004**

Ref	Key Commitment	On Target	Progress in 2003/2004 Key Issues/Comments
Resou	urces (including SCPU) (Cor-RE, Cor-SCP)		
003	An increase in cost-effectiveness of at least 2.5% per year covering the term of the Local Public Service Agreement by March 2004	NA	This cannot be calculated until the Social Services information becomes available. This data is expected by the end of May 2004.
011	Further develop the processes for linking capital resources to the council's strategic aims through the Capital Strategy and Multi-Year Capital Plan by <b>March 2004</b>	Yes	Capital Strategy approved by Council in July 2003 Approved process developed approved and applied to 2004/2005 – 2006/2007 capital programme. Capital Strategy received a 'good' rating from Government Office for the North East.
027	Implement improvements to the strategic approach to procurement in line with the requirements of the CPA improvement plan	No	Target dates for 31" March delivery have slipped due to SC&PU staff leading on LSVT project. LSVT will also impact on later delivery dates. Slippage issues discussed with Jan Richmond
Perfor	mance Management & Diversity (Cor-PMD)		
014	Develop and implement a corporate minimum standard for performance management and service planning by May 2004	Yes	
019	Agree a revised CPA improvement plan by <b>March 2004.</b>	Yes	
057	Ensure that key national and local targets set out in the Local Public Service Agreement are delivered in accordance with the agreed timetable by <b>March 2004</b>	No	Eleven of the twelve targets have completed on time as per LPSA agreement. Including Target 9, Streetworks, which has been given an extended period to collate information to June 2004. This period of extension has been agreed by all key stakeholders including ODPM and DfT. Evidence of extension filed with Carol Taylor. Target 12 has not been completed as it requires data from social services in order for the calculation to be performed and this isn't expected until the end of May 2004.
Huma	n Resources (Client) (Cor-HR)		
030	Agree the strategy for single status and job evaluation and, in partnership with Service Middlesbrough, commence the first phase	Yes	

#### **APPENDIX A – COMMITMENTS 2003/2004**

Ref	Key Commitment	On Target	Progress in 2003/2004 Key Issues/Comments
032	Review HR strategy and relationship between MBC and Service Middlesbrough and implement improvements	No	Draft strategy about to go out for comment, draft SLA already out for comment.
033	Review the training and development strategy by <b>December 2004</b>	No	Completed - Initial discussions have taken place and the Training Programme for 2004/05 is currently being drafted. Strategy to be incorporated into HR strategy as above.
035	Agree Health & Safety framework suitable to meet future legislative and local needs in a partnership environment	Yes	New policy agreed and Action Plan under discussion to be finalised by June 2004. New inspection programme agreed, new Health and Safety Committee created and Work Programme for 2004/05 agreed.
031	Review the diversity strategy and framework to meet legislative and local needs by <b>June 2004</b>	Yes	New policy and framework for Diversity Steering Group agreed. Action plans in all services are being developed and a corporate action plan will be introduced by Sept 2004.
Partne	ership Information & Strategy (Cor-PIS)		
005	Carry out a corporate audit of engagement activities as part of the self- assessment element of the CPA by March 2004	No	CMT agreed report taking this forward in October 2003. This included the support structure for consultation. Departure of key staff member has not permitted further significant progress on this.
006	Report the outcomes of engagement activities to residents and service providers so that they can continue to develop service provision to meet community requirements by <b>March 2004</b>	No	See 005 above. Work on this flows from action on 005
007	Explore opportunities to share data between the different organisations in the Middlesbrough Partnership to improve service planning and delivery and support collaborative working by <b>March 2005</b>	Yes	A variety of protocols have been agreed.
008	Develop the Council's strategy for e- Government in agreement with the OPDM by <b>March 2004</b>	Yes	Draft Strategy developed. Will be considered by CMT and Executive in May 2004. Extensive consultation has taken place during its development including focus groups involving the public, meetings with all heads of service, discussions with the Resources and Audit Scrutiny Panel and reports to CMT.

#### **APPENDIX A – COMMITMENTS 2003/2004**

Ref	Key Commitment	On Target	Progress in 2003/2004 Key Issues/Comments
062	Complete 2003 Implementing e- government Statement by <b>October 2003</b>	Yes	Agreed by CMT on 23rd October 2003 and the Executive on 4th November 2003.
026	Agree terms and review renegotiation of HBS partnership arrangements and undertake negotiations in accordance with the project initiation document.	Yes	Renegotiation process approved by Executive in November 2003. Project initiation document agreed with HBS in November 2003. Review expected to be completed by June 2004

#### **APPENDIX B – MEETING TARGET**

Indicator	Performance Indicator	Current Quartile (Top, 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , Bottom)	Top Quartile (2002 / 2003)	Result 2002/03	Target 2003/04	Result 2003/04 Actual or Estimate (e)	Key Issues/Comments
Resources (	ncluding SCPU) (Cor-RE, Cor-SCP)						
BV 008 CPA (HR)	<b>80%</b> of undisputed invoices paid in 30 days	Bottom	90.9%	79.3%	80%	83.2%	Performance at the beginning of the year was low at 72%, however improved procedures from July 2003 have resulted in an increased percentage in the latter part of the year.
BV 010 <b>CPA</b>	99% of business rates received	Тор	98.76%	98.9%	99%	99%	
BV 076b	<b>0.26</b> fraud investigators employed, per 1,000 caseload	NA	NA	NEW	0.26	0.27	
BV 076c	<b>39.28</b> fraud investigations, per 1,000 caseload	NA	NA	NEW	39.28	45.36	There was a larger than anticipated number of data match investigations during the course of the year.
BV 076d	<b>1.57</b> prosecutions and sanctions, per 1,000 caseload	NA	NA	NEW	1.57	2.45	There were more cautions and prosecutions resulting from the NFI data match than was expected when the target was set

## **APPENDIX B – MEETING TARGET**

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BV 078a	<b>29</b> days for processing new housing/council tax benefits claims	Тор	40	40	29	27.48	During the year 2002/03 the Benefits service experienced a backlog as a result of the implementation of a DMS system in May 2002. This had a knock on effect on Average days for new claims for the financial year 2002/2003. As the backlog of new claims were cleared in Nov 2002, performance has returned to previous standards which has resulted in an improved performance for the financial year 2003/2004
BV 078b	8 days for processing notification of changes of circumstances	Тор	11	12	8	6.11	Additional resources were available which HBS utilised in order to significantly improve performance for Middlesbrough Council.
BV 080g	<b>90%</b> level of overall satisfaction with housing/council tax benefits services (breakdown provided; a – f)	NA	NA	83% (00/01)	90%	83.60% (e)	Results have been taken from the data submitted to the ODPM. However these results are only estimates, as data has to be 'weighted' in line with government guidance. Actual results will not be available until after 31st May 2004.
BV 180a (i)	<b>106%</b> energy consumption of local authority operational property compared with the rest of the UK – electricity	NA	NA	Q	106%	Not Required	Not Required – Audit Commission Newsletter 24
BV 180a(ii)	<b>146%</b> energy consumption of local authority operational property compared with the rest of the UK – fossil fuels	NA	NA	Q	146%	Not Required	

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Performance	Management & Diversity (Cor-PMD)						
BV 002a	The Council will conform to level 1 of the Equality Standard for local government (commitment 016) by March 2004	Тор	1	0	1	1	
Human Resc	ources (Client) (Cor-HR)						
BV 011a <b>CPA</b>	<b>55%</b> of the top 5% of earners are women	Тор	43.2%	55%	45%	47.6%	
BV 016b <b>CPA</b>	Report on the percentage of economically active disabled people in the Local Authority area	NA	NA	7.4%	No Target Required	19.5%	
BV 017b <b>CPA</b>	Report on the percentage of economically active people in the Local Authority area from the minority ethnic population	NA	NA	5%	No Target Required	6.1-	
Partnership I	nformation & Strategy (Cor-PIS)						
BV 157	<b>66%</b> of interactions with the public which are capable of electronic service delivery	Тор	58%	34.35	66%	66%	The national target of 100% has be achieved by 2005. A continuous improvement programme is in place to work towards the target.

	MANCE INDICATORS 20				-		
Indicator	Performance Indicator	Current Quartile (Top, 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , Bottom)	Top Quartile (2002 / 2003)	Result 2002/03	Target 2003/04	Result 2003/04 Actual or Estimate (e)	Key Issues/Comments
Legal Service	es (Cor-LS)						
BV 004	<b>47%</b> of complainants satisfied with the handling of their complaint	NA	NA	46% (0/01)	47%	27%	Hard to ascertain a precise reason for this, Concerns about the level of and methodology used to calculate and also Council Tax rises may have contributed to the poorer results nationally
BV 179	<b>100%</b> of Standard Searches completed within 10 working days	2nd	100%	100%	100%	99.9%	
Resources (in	ncluding SCPU) (Cor-RE, Cor-SCP)						
BV 009	98% of council tax collected	3 <sup>rd</sup>	96.95%	96.3%	98.0%	94.8%	For current year all debt had to be given priority. This has resulted in an increase in the amount of arrears collected but has had a detrimental effect on the in- year collection figures. The older the debt, the more difficult it is to collect
BV 076a	<b>114</b> housing benefit claimants visited, per 1,000 caseload	NA	NA	NEW	114	42	The original estimate was based upon the number of visits carried out by the fraud section in previous years. However, the definition of an effective visit for this BVPI is different for that used in other statistics produced hence the variance.

Indicator	Performance Indicator	Current Quartile (Top, 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , Bottom)	Top Quartile (2002 / 2003)	Result 2002/03	Target 2003/04	Result 2003/04 Actual or Estimate (e)	Key Issues/Comments
BV 078c	<b>77%</b> of rent allowance renewal claims processed on time	2nd	77%	63%	77%	75%	
BV 079a	<b>99%</b> of cases for which the calculation of the amount of benefit due was correct on the basis of information available	Тор	98%	98.2%	99.0%	98.6%	
BV 079b	<b>60%</b> of recoverable overpayments (excluding council tax) recovered in the year	3rd	61%	59.2%	60.0%	51.3%	Poor recovery is a partial consequence of accounting procedures. If a magistrates court issues an order for a repayment of £1 per week against a debt of £200 then whilst the entire debt will be collected after 4 years for the purposes of this PI only the £52 collected within the financial year in included.
BV 156 <b>CPA</b>	<b>16.39%</b> of council buildings accessible and suitable for disabled people	3rd	47%	10.48%	16.39%	13.45%	A number of buildings earmarked to close in the period have remained open additional properties have been added to the council's portfolio and a new facility has been completed.
Performance	Management & Diversity (Cor-PMD)						
BV 002b	<b>83%</b> score in relation to the Council's Race Equality Scheme (RES)	NA	NA	NEW	83%	55%	This BVPI was a new indicator and he target figure was estimated using the information available. However, the race equality scheme priorities have changed and new policies are being developed – this has affected our score in this BVPI
BV 003	67% of citizens satisfied with services provided	NA	NA	66% (00/01)	67%	57%	

Indicator	Performance Indicator	Current Quartile (Top, 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , Bottom)	Top Quartile (2002 / 2003)	Result 2002/03	Target 2003/04	Result 2003/04 Actual or Estimate (e)	Key Issues/Comments
BV 174	<b>66</b> racial incidents recorded by the council per 100,000 population	Bottom	14	Q	66	115	The target figure was an estimate; The McPherson definition has been adopted and the authority has a robust complaints procedure, both of which are likely to ensure that all incidents are recorded.
BV 175	<b>100%</b> of racial incidents resulting in further action	3rd	100%	Q	100%	99%	The procedure heavily states that all recorded racist incidents must be followed up with further action. The 1% equates to 2 incidents, which are currently still pending. These will be followed up in 04/05 however at the time the data collection was undertaken this had not happened.
Human Reso	urces (Client) (Cor-HR)						
BV 011b <b>CPA</b>	<b>1.6%</b> of the top 5% of earners from black and minority ethnic communities	Bottom	3.9%	1.6%	1.0%	0%	
BV 012 CPA (HR)	<b>9.5</b> working days lost due to sickness absence per full time employee	Bottom	9	Q	9.5	15.2	This BVPI has been the subject of concerted efforts by both the Council and HBS to ensure accurate recording of data. The increase in number of days is a consequence of accurate recording systems and is not believed to be an actual change in performance.
BV 014 <b>CPA</b>	<b>0.15%</b> of employees retiring early (excluding ill-health)	2nd	0.15%	0.28%	0.15%	0.22%	
BV 015 <b>CPA</b>	<b>0.3%</b> of employees retiring will ill- health	2nd	0.19%	0.18%	0.3%	0.22%	

Indicator	Performance Indicator	Current Quartile (Top, 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , Bottom)	Top Quartile (2002 / 2003)	Result 2002/03	Target 2003/04	Result 2003/04 Actual or Estimate (e)	Key Issues/Comments
BV 016a <b>CPA</b>	<b>2%</b> of employees declaring that they meet the 1995 Disability Discrimination Act disability definition	Bottom	2.2%	1.48%	2%	1%	The current data collection process cannot distinguish 'don't know' responses there these PIs have been calculated on the basis of all employees
BV 017a <b>CPA</b>	<b>1.8%</b> of employees form minority ethnic communities	Bottom	3.7%	1.79%	1.8%	0.87%	<ul> <li>an audit has been undertaken to rectify this.</li> </ul>

Indicator	Performance Indicator	Current Quartile (Top, 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , Bottom)	Top Quartile (2002 / 2003)	03/04 Result	04/05 Target	05/06 Target	06/07 Target	Comments
Legal Service	es (Cor-LS)							
BV 004	Percentage of complainants satisfied with the handling of their complaint	NA	NA	27%	Not Collected	Not Collected	33%	
BV 179	Percentage Standard Searches completed within 10 working days	2nd	100%	99.89%	100%	100%	100%	
Resources (in	ncluding SCPU) (Cor-RE, Cor-SCP)							
BV 008 CPA (HR)	Percentage of undisputed invoices paid in 30 days	Bottom	90.9%	83.2%	88%	90%	90%	SAP financials should improve performance. There may be a dip as new systems settle in and become operationally effective. SAP allows a better track of invoices to be made early identification of bottle neck
BV 009 <b>CPA</b>	Percentage of council tax collected	3rd	96.95%	94.8%	98%	98%	98%	
BV 010 <b>CPA</b>	Percentage of business rates received	Тор	98.76%	99%	99%	99%	99%	
BV 076a	Number of housing benefit claimants visited, per 1,000 caseload	NA	NA	41.97	90	250	280	Extra member of staff will lead to increased productivity
BV 076b	Number of fraud investigators employed, per 1,000 caseload	NA	NA	0.27	0.32	0.34	0.34	
BV 076c	Number of fraud investigations, per 1,000 caseload	NA	NA	45.36	48	50	50	

Indicator	Performance Indicator	Current Quartile (Top, 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , Bottom)	Top Quartile (2002 / 2003)	03/04 Result	04/05 Target	05/06 Target	06/07 Target	Comments
BV 076d	Number of prosecutions and sanctions, per 1,000 caseload	NA	NA	2.45	2.45	2.6	2.65	
BV 078a	Number of days for processing new housing/council tax benefits claims	Тор	40	27.48	29	29	29	
BV 078b	Number of days for processing notification of changes of circumstances	Тор	11	6.11	25	25	25	
BV 079a	Percentage of cases for which the calculation of the amount of benefit due was correct on the basis of information available	Тор	98%	98.6%	99%	99%	99%	
BV 079b	Percentage of recoverable overpayments (excluding council tax) recovered in the year	3rd	61%	51.3%	60%	62%	65%	
BV 080g	Percentage level of overall satisfaction with housing/council tax benefits services (breakdown provided; a – f)	NA	NA	83.6%	Not Collected	Not Collected		
BV 156 <b>CPA</b>	Percentage of council buildings accessible and suitable for disabled people	3rd	47%	16.39%	23.5%	25%	27.7%	Action taken in partnership with HBS to ensure DDA Audits of all Council buildings that are accessible to the public
Performance	Management & Diversity (Cor-PMD)							
BV 002a	The Council will conform to level 1 of the Equality Standard for local government	Тор	1	1	2	3	3	

Indicator	Performance Indicator	Current Quartile (Top, 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , Bottom)	Top Quartile (2002 / 2003)	03/04 Result	04/05 Target	05/06 Target	06/07 Target	Comments
BV 002b	Percentage score in relation to the Council's Race Equality Scheme (RES)	NA	NA	55%	83%	89%	100%	
BV 003	Percentage of citizens satisfied with services provided	NA	NA	57%	Not Collected	Not Collected	67%	
BV 174	Number of racial incidents recorded by the council per 100,000 population	Bottom	14	115	115	110	105	The impact of specific Community Cohesion initiatives will reduce the number of racist incidents recorded.
BV 175	<b>100%</b> of racial incidents resulting in further action	3rd	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	
Human Reso	ources (Client) (Cor-HR)							
BV 011a <b>CPA</b>	Percentage of the top 5% of earners are women	Тор	43.2%	47.6%	48%	49%	50%	
BV 011b <b>CPA</b>	Percentage of the top 5% of earners from black and minority ethnic communities	Bottom	3.9%	0%	1.0%	1.5%	2.0%	
BV 012 CPA (HR)	Number of working days lost due to sickness absence per full time employee	Bottom	9	15.2	13	11	11	
BV 014 <b>CPA</b>	Percentage of employees retiring early (excluding ill-health)	2nd	0.15%	0.22%	0.15%	0.12%	0.10%	
BV 015 <b>CPA</b>	Percentage of employees retiring will ill-health	2nd	0.19%	0.22%	0.30%	0.22%	0.20%	Improvements in absence management mean that during 04/05 the figure may go up temporarily
BV 016a <b>CPA</b>	Percentage of employees declaring that they meet the 1995 Disability Discrimination Act disability definition	Bottom	2.2%	1%	1.5%	1.8%	2.0%	

Indicator	Performance Indicator	Current Quartile (Top, 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , Bottom)	Top Quartile (2002 / 2003)	03/04 Result	04/05 Target	05/06 Target	06/07 Target	Comments
BV 016b <b>CPA</b>	Report on the percentage of economically active disabled people in the Local Authority area	NA	NA	19.4%	No Target Required			
BV 017a <b>CPA</b>	Percentage of employees form minority ethnic communities	Bottom	3.7%	0.87%	1.25%	1.5%	1.8%	
BV 017b <b>CPA</b>	Report on the percentage of economically active people in the Local Authority area from the minority ethnic population	NA	NA	-	No Target Required			
Partnership	Information & Strategy (Cor-PIS)							
BV 157	Percentage of interactions with the public which are capable of electronic service delivery	Тор	58%	66%	79%	100%	100%	