

**TEESDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Report To: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
13 August 2008**

**From:** Councillor Newton Wood

**Ward Member:** ALL

**Subject: ANNALYSIS OF THE CPA REPORT 2008 -  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

**1.0 SUMMARY**

1.1 An analysis of the Audit Commission's CPA report was undertaken and approved at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 23 July 2008. The Chair will update members on the progress of the recommendations contained in the report. (appendix 1).

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**2.1 It is recommended that**

**2.1.1 progress be noted.**

**3.0 LINK TO CORPORATE KEY PRIORITIES/AMBITIONS**

3.1 Priority: Improving Together Programme

3.2 Ambition: Provide accessible, quality services; Be effective community leaders; Have well managed and efficient use of our resources; Improve the Council's reputation; and Have effective partnerships delivering the requirements of our community.

3.3 Outcome: Leading our communities, listen to and acting on their needs, shaping the places they live and providing feedback; Having high quality, accessible services, taking account of the needs of everyone.

**4.0 BACKGROUND**

4.1 Members will be aware that the Audit Commission undertook a CPA inspection of the Council in March 2008 and that the inspectors' final report was published on 24 June 2008.

4.2 Having considered the analysis of the report the Committee put forward recommendations for consideration by the Executive Committee.

**5.0 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS**

5.1 Financial Implications:

5.2 Risk:

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Implications</b>
Reviews may not be completed	Reputation	The Overview and Scrutiny Process loses credibility

5.3 Equality and Diversity: Overview and Scrutiny has a role in ensuring the Council's compliance with equality and diversity requirements.

5.4 Human Resources: None

5.5 Community Safety: As 5.3 above

5.6 Legal Issues: Overview and Scrutiny is a statutory function defined by Local Government Act 2000.

**Background papers: None**

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## **14. Recommendations (approved by O & S Committee but not yet implemented)**

14.1 Members are requested to consider the following recommendations:

### **1. Human Resources (Paul Wilding/Rachel Bowles)**

It is essential that the Council can meet its full obligations in consulting with staff on any of the issues that they may wish to discuss on a personal basis. This is now more important during this transitional period when staff will be looking for jobs and discussing relocation issues. It is therefore essential that the HR department has the appropriate resources to meet staff requirements up until March 2009.

**A request is made to Paul Wilding or Rachel Bowles to prepare a report for the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group meeting on Monday 11 August and the full Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Wednesday, 13 August.**

### **2. Newly Elected Durham County Council Members**

This report highlights the weaknesses identified by the CPA, some of which Teesdale District Council will not be able to address in the short period up until 1 April 2009. It is therefore essential that the newly elected Council Members are fully aware of the issues raised in the CPA report and that they bring these to the attention of the relevant departments in Durham County Council.

**It is recommended that a meeting be held with newly elected county councillors and the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group to identify those areas which will need addressing by officers at Durham County Council. It is also proposed that the outcomes of any discussions held by the members and officers be monitored by the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group and reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee bi-monthly.**

### **3. Teesdale Listens**

The Chief Executive and Leader of the Council have agreed to meet with the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group to simplify the existing protocol of Teesdale Listens following comments raised by members of the Council.

**However, in light of the Audit Commission's comments on relationships with our community, especially minority groups, a discussion needs to take place on whether it is appropriate for Teesdale Listens to include those community issues raised in this report.**

### **4. Areas for Improvement (Lead Members/Overview and Scrutiny Panels/Officers)**

Where a lead member is responsible for activities identified for improvement it is recommended that the appropriate Panels discuss with Lead Members ways in

which they can work together to develop principles which will deliver those improvements identified in the report.

Once Lead Member/Officer responsibilities have been identified Panel Chairs will be requested to liaise with them to develop a procedure to address the problems raised. If this is approved discussions will commence at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Group on Monday 28 July.

## **5. Staff Concerns**

The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny will meet with the Lead Member for Improvement, Councillor John Salter, to discuss developing alternative arrangements to remove concerns over strategic leadership. A meeting will be arranged before 31 July and an update will be provided on the 11 August (Co-ordinating Group meeting) and 13 August (Special meeting of O & S Committee).

## **6. Interim Deputy Chief Executive**

With all the management issues that will be presented within the next six months it is important that the Council continues as we are now to ensure that services are not compromised, staff are well consulted with and appreciated and the reduction in staff and resources is addressed and managed. **To ensure that these issues are undertaken effectively it is recommended that the Interim Deputy Chief Executive's contract be extended until the resource is no longer required.**

## **7. Panel Chairs/Lead Members**

The Panel Chairs and Lead Members will identify those areas not mentioned above such as action plans, partnerships, and attendance at partnership group meetings and processed for improvement.