

By: Roger Gough, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Support Services & Performance Management

To: CORPORATE POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE – 8 July 2009

Subject: DATA QUALITY AUDIT 2007/08

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary:

The report from the 2007/08 Data Quality audit and associated action plan are attached. These were presented to the Governance and Audit Committee in March and it was recommended that all Policy Overview Committees also receive the report for information.

FOR INFORMATION

1. Introduction

1.1 Data quality and the strength of management arrangements to secure it within public bodies have been the subject of increasing concern and focus by government, the Audit Commission and other regulators.

1.2 As part of the Audit Commission's Audit Code of Practice, local authorities are subject to an annual audit of the strength of management arrangements for securing data quality. The Data Quality audit report for 2007/08 was received earlier in the year and an action plan was drafted.

2. The 2007/08 Data Quality Audit

2.1 Earlier in the year the Audit Commission provided KCC with a report on the audit of the council's management arrangements to secure data quality in 2007/08. The full report is attached.

2.2 The overall finding was that the council's arrangements are consistently above minimum standards, which is a good rating.

2.3 Areas where the council should consider improvements were provided through a series of five recommendations. Improvements in relation to these recommendations were found to be in hand in most cases although most were in the early stages of development and not yet consistently applied across all service directorates.

2.4 A number of recommendations were in relation to enhancing the role of councillors with respect to data quality. It is proposed that these recommendations be

taken forward within the context of Policy Overview Committees, in order to engage members more fully with data quality issues.

3. Data Quality Action Plan

3.1 A summary of the recommendations and the associated action plan (the full detail is in Appendix 1 of the audit report) is shown below:

| Recommendation | Action |
|--|--|
| The role of all councillors should be specified in the data quality strategy. | Update to Policy |
| Councillors should have data quality training provided commensurate with their role in data quality. | To be addressed through Policy Overview Committees |
| That the Council at a strategic level formalises protocols and standards on data quality received from outside bodies to ensure that all data used by the Council is sound. | To be developed through the Kent Partnership |
| The Council should report on the effectiveness of the various levels of data quality training provided so that it can assure itself that any data quality gaps in staff are being met. | Review to be undertaken |
| Ensure that the profile of data quality is raised by reporting the results of spot-checks of data systems to councillors. | To be addressed through Policy Overview Committees |

4. Recommendation

4.1 Members are asked to NOTE the data quality action plan in Appendix 1 of the audit report.

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