

Meeting:	BNG BOARD
Date:	21 November 2008
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Board Action:	For information
Sensitivity:	Public

Item 6: Audit Commission Reports

Link to BNG Vision and Objectives: The reviews carried out by the Audit Commission report on the performance of BNG in a number of key strategic and operational areas. These all have a direct and clear link to the delivery of BNGs vision and objectives.

Recommendation: That BNG Board notes this paper, in particular the action plan set out to respond to recommendations made by the Audit Commission in its Performance Review and Use of Resources Assessment.

Context

In its last Performance Review was assessed as performing strongly, the highest score available. This is the first time that a specific Audit Commission report has focussed on Use of Resources. The scoring framework used by the Audit Commission is:

- Performing Strongly
- Performing Well
- Performing Adequately
- Not Performing Adequately

Performing Strongly being the highest score.

The Outcomes

The Performance Review reports that BNG continues to be assessed as performing strongly. The Use of Resources Assessment finds that BNG is performing well. See Appendix 1.

Next Steps

There a number of formal recommendations made in both documents that BNG must respond to. In addition to this there are a number of 'strong hints' that BNG will also address. The formal recommendations are time limited with a start date of 1st November 2008.

BNG is managing its response by:

- Developing an action plan (Appendix 2). This collates all formal and informal recommendations along with timescales and a dedicated officer who is responsible for their completion. This is a standing item on the BNG Management Team agenda.
- Learning from the performance of other Pathfinders (Appendix 3). Work has been done to identify which Pathfinders are performing better than BNG in specific areas. This work will then be developed to understand the reasons for their better performance and how BNG might apply this approach to our activity.
- Considering the need to engage some very specific and time limited consultancy advice to improve performance.

Implications	
Financial:	This outcome of the recent performance review is one of a small number of indicators that will be used by CLG to confirm the financial allocation for BNG in 2009/10.
Equality:	BNG is performing strongly in community cohesion consultation and support.
Sustainability:	BNG is performing strongly in terms of place shaping, this includes addressing sustainability issues.
Freedom of Information:	This is a public report.