



Safeguarding local standards

Chair: Patricia Hughes, Deputy Chair, the Standards Board for England

Paul Hoey, Head of Policy and Guidance, the Standards Board for England

Gareth Davies, Managing Director, Local Government and Housing, the Audit Commission

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Paul Hoey

Head of Policy and Guidance
The Standards Board for England

Introduction

- **Standards Board's role**
- **Update on pilot work**
- **Monitoring**

Strategic role of the Standards Board for England

- Defining the framework
- Promoting and championing high standards
- Ensuring effectiveness of performance
- Monitoring

Pilot work

- Local filter
- Joint working
- Monitoring performance

Monitoring

- Improving performance
- Identify problems
- Consistency
- Light touch
- Risk based

How will we monitor?

- Self-regulation
- Collecting data
- Light touch and risk triggered
- Comprehensive Area Assessment

What type of information?

Quarterly returns:

- allegations
- appeals
- investigations and other activities
- standards committee

What type of information?

Public/members/officers:

- allegations
- appeals
- investigations and other activities
- standards committee

What type of information?

Annual reports:

- activities/plans of standards committees
- wider governance issues

Standards Board actions

- Phone calls
- Letters
- Seek explanation from authority
- Meeting with MO/standards committee chair
- Withdrawal of powers

Any questions?

**Ethical standards
and the new local performance
framework**

Gareth Davies
Managing Director
Local Government and Housing
The Audit Commission

Outline

- **Ethical standards in the current CPA framework**
- **Early thinking on the Comprehensive Area Assessment framework**
- **Liaison between the Standards Board and appointed auditors and the Audit Commission**

Ethical standards and CPA

- **Use of resources judgement**
- **Corporate assessment**

And outside the scored CPA process:

- **auditors' public interest reports**
- **corporate governance inspections**

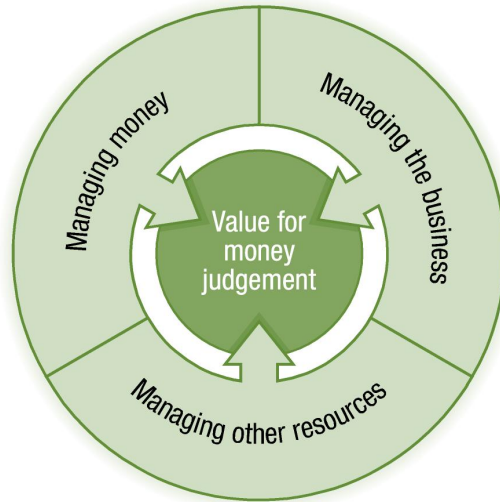
Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)

- Joint consultation paper in November
- Joint-inspectorate assessment of “the prospects for the area and the quality of life for people living and working there” (the area risk assessment)
- Star ratings, rolling programmes of corporate assessments, joint area reviews and annual service assessments end in 2008/09
- For councils, the only continuing annual assessments will be the direction of travel and use of resources judgements

Ethical standards in CAA?

- Prime focus the auditor’s use of resources assessment - may also feature in area risk assessment
- VFM crucial in light of anticipated CSR pressure
- Being reframed for 2008/09 onwards to make it less detailed and ‘checklisty’ and cover new priority areas such as sustainability, commissioning and asset management

Draft proposed use of resources framework



Three draft scored themes

1. Managing money

1. Financial health
2. Financial planning
3. Understanding costs
4. Financial monitoring & forecasting
5. Financial reporting

2. Managing the business

1. Leadership
2. Commissioning services
3. Procurement
4. Performance & risk management
5. Ethical behaviour & counter fraud

3. Managing other resources

1. Natural resources
2. Physical assets
3. People & knowledge

SBE/appointed auditor/AC liaison

- **On design of the use of resources assessment**
- **Protocol for transparent sharing of the SBE risk assessment with auditor**
- **Discussions between SBE, auditor and Audit Commission CAA lead where circumstances require it**
- **Aim is to minimise burden of information requests on the council – drawing on the new SBE arrangements**

Any questions?

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