

Agenda Item:

Report to: Audit Committee

Date: 25th September 2007

Report from: Head of Policy and Performance

Title of report: **DATA QUALITY POLICY**

Purpose of report: To invite Members to comment on the draft Data Quality Policy developed in response to the Audit Commission's new Standards to improve data quality in the public sector.

Recommendations: That:

1. Members agree the draft Data Quality Policy including the objectives, priorities and management arrangements for assuring data quality in Hastings Borough Council.
2. The Committee includes issues of data quality in its annual report to Council, commencing June 2008.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 During 2006/07 the Council was assessed under the Audit Commission's new approach to auditing of performance indicators - the Data Quality (DQ) assessment and we scored 3 (on a scale of 1 to 4, with 4 being the highest) with no formal recommendations for improvement made.
- 1.2 At time of writing, the Audit Commission are undertaking an assessment of our Data Quality for the period January to March 2007. (This is to allow re-alignment of audit work and future assessments to be undertaken on a financial rather than calendar year). The outcome of the assessment will be reported to Members in the autumn.
- 1.2 The Audit Commission is due shortly to publish its final standards (they are being revised following consultation) that define a framework of management arrangements that public bodies can implement to satisfy themselves and other stakeholders of the quality of the data supporting their performance information.

- 1.3 Following the Council's internal management re-structure and the publication of these standards, it is appropriate for the Council to consider and review its priorities and processes for data quality.
- 1.4 The draft Policy sets out the Council's management arrangements, objectives and priorities for data quality.
- 1.5 Members will note that the role of councillors is key with regard to data quality therefore, in addition to the role's set out in the policy for the Deputy Leader, Lead Members and Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Audit Committee is asked to formally include data quality in its annual report to Council commencing in June 2008.

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