

## **BRIEFING NOTE**

**TO: Corporate Scrutiny Panel**  
**DATE: 25 October 2007**

**RE: Performance Information Management System (PIMS) and Data Quality**

### **Purpose**

This briefing note gives a synopsis of the presentation to be delivered to the corporate scrutiny panel, to include:

- An overview of the Performance Information Management System (PIMS)
- How data quality is assured through the use of PIMS and throughout Walsall's data collection and reporting processes
- The Beacon Index – demonstrating how PIMS brings the data collection, quality and reporting processes together

### **Introduction**

The implementation of PIMS at Walsall commenced during November 2005, since when significant progress has been made in developing and rolling out the system to users. This note summarises how PIMS is used and how the quality of data held within PIMS is assured, through the application of Walsall's data quality assurance policy.

### **PIMS and Data Quality Assurance**

PIMS contains current and historic data on a broad range of performance measures and helps directorates and services perform statistical analysis and produce performance reports to inform decision making and planning.

PIMS is used not only to monitor performance across the directorates and services, but also provides management and members with accurate and timely performance data on the Beacon Index and Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI's). The quality of data within PIMS is assured through the application of Walsall's policy for data quality assurance. The policy was first published in June 2006 and continues to be reviewed through the quality assurance sub group of the Performance Improvement Group (PIG).

Data quality has become a national priority over recent years, with Audit Commission changing their approach to assessing data quality to form a judgement on the adequacy of the arrangements each authority has in place to monitor the quality of its performance information, and to report the results to

members. This judgement forms part of the overall Value for Money assessment as part of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) framework.

The intrinsic relationship between PIMS and data quality assurance will be demonstrated through a presentation as well as a live demonstration of the system to present Beacon Index data.

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