

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

22 MAY 2008

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Corporate and social inclusion - Lead Cabinet Member - Councillor Laing

COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT 2007

1. Summary

In March 2008, the Audit Commission rated the council as “a four star council” that is “improving strongly” in its Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA). This report details our performance in the different areas that made up the assessment.

2. Recommendation

That Members note the report.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations

To inform Cabinet of the detail that sit behind the Council’s CPA rating.

4. Members Interests

Members (including co-opted members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council’s code of conduct (paragraph 8) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member’s judgement of the public interest (paragraph 10 of the code of conduct).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting is being held, whilst the matter is being considered; not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek

improperly to influence the decision about the matter (paragraph 12 of the Code).

Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc.; whether or not they are a member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting, and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room during consideration of the relevant item.

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SUMMARY

In March 2008, the Audit Commission rated the council as “a four star council” that is “improving strongly” in its Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA). This report details our performance in the different areas that made up the assessment.

RECOMMENDATION

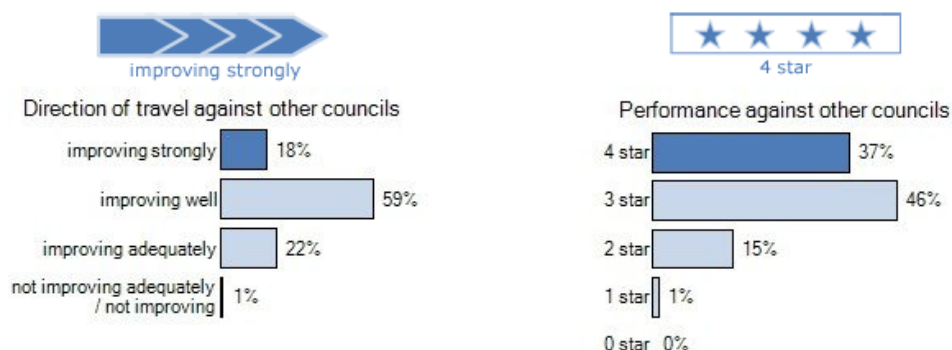
That Members note the report.

DETAIL

1. 2005 saw the Audit Commission implement a revised CPA framework, badged as “the harder test” and introduced a new scoring framework. Councils now receive a star rating (from zero to four stars) and an improvement judgement ranging from not improving adequately to improving strongly.
2. In 2007, Stockton is rated as “4 star, improving strongly” for the second time:

Overall performance for this Council

This is a council that is **improving strongly** and demonstrating a **4 star** overall performance.



3. The standard that must be met to achieve each of the performance levels has also been raised. In the new model each element is scored on a 1 to 4 basis:

1	below minimum requirements: inadequate performance
2	at only minimum requirements: adequate performance
3	consistently above minimum requirements: performing well
4	well above minimum requirements: performing strongly

4. Our performance against each of the elements in the model that contribute to the star rating was:

Corporate assessment (based on our 2004 assessment)	4
Social Care (adults)	3
Children and young people	4
Use of resources including value for money	4
Housing	4
Culture	3
Environment	3
Benefits	4

5. The improvement judgement, known as the “direction of travel” focuses on:
- Our performance in improving in priority areas
 - Our contribution to wider community outcomes
 - How we are improving access and quality of services for all citizens, and particularly those who are ‘harder to reach’
 - How we are improving value for money
 - Whether we have robust plans for improving
 - How well improvement planning is being implemented: are key milestones being achieved?
6. For the environment, housing and culture blocks, the Audit Commission uses a range of performance information and inspection scores where these are available. It has changed the way it deals with performance indicators so that rather than judging councils by their comparative performance against others, they set “thresholds” for minimum acceptable performance and performing

well. Each measure has an upper and lower threshold and performance is collated to derive the overall PI score:

Score	Proportion of data items
4	No PIs at or below the lower threshold, and 35% or more PIs at or above the upper threshold
3	No more than 15% (or 1 PI if 15% equates to less than 1) of PIs at or below the lower thresholds, and 25% or more PIs at or above the upper thresholds
2	Any other combination
1	35% or more PIs at or below the lower threshold

7. The next section of the report summarises our performance in each of the blocks that make up the assessment.

Corporate assessment

8. The Audit Commission is carrying out corporate assessments using its new key lines of enquiry on a rolling programme. Our corporate assessment took place in the weeks commencing 3rd and 10th December 2007; and the report was published on April 22nd 2008. The assessment resulted in an overall score of 4. Further detail about the outcome of the corporate assessment can be found elsewhere on this cabinet agenda.

Social Care (Adults)

9. We achieved a score of **3** for the social care (adults) block in 2007. The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) rated the council as having “**good delivery of outcomes**” with “**promising prospects for improvement**”. The rating is based on judgements made against the following national Adult Social Care Standards and Criteria:

- Improving health and emotional wellbeing
- Improving quality of life
- Making a positive contribution
- Increasing choice and control
- Freedom from discrimination and harassment
- Economic wellbeing
- Maintaining dignity and respect
- Capacity for improvement

Children and Young People

10. We achieved a score of **4** in the children and young people block – the only Tees Valley authority to do so. This was based on the Annual Performance Assessment (APA) of education and children’s social care services, carried out by OfSTED and the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI). The inspectorates made the following judgements:

Area for judgement	Grade	Areas for development
Being healthy	3	Improve CAMHS provision for children and young people with complex, persistent and severe behavioural and mental health needs. Emergency admissions to hospital for children and young people aged 0–19.
Staying safe	4	Ensure national minimum standards are consistently met in all types of residential care.
Enjoying and achieving	3	Improve pupils attainment at Key Stage 3
Making a positive contribution	4	Re-offending rates
Achieving economic wellbeing	4	Increase the number of young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities who are engaged in work-based learning.
Capacity to improve, including the management of Children's services	4	n/a

Housing

11. The housing block has two parts – managing council housing and housing the community. The managing council housing section is made up of one inspection score of **two stars** (2006 – Supporting People inspection) and a range of performance indicators. Our PI performance for managing council housing gave us:
 - 54.5% at or above the upper threshold
 - 45.5% at or above the lower threshold
 - 0% below the lower threshold

12. The housing the community section score depended solely on performance indicators. Our PI performance gave us
 - 42.9% at or above the upper threshold
 - 57.1% at or above the lower threshold
 - 0% below the lower threshold

13. The overall score for the managing council housing section, 70% of which is based on the inspection score and the remaining 30% on the PIs was 3. The overall score for the housing the community section was 4. These are combined with managing council housing being worth 50% and housing the community 50% and the Audit Commission's weighted average aggregate score model (Appendix 1) applied to create the overall block score of **4**.

Culture

14. This block is made up entirely of performance indicators:

- 52% at or above the upper threshold
- 44% at or above the lower threshold
- 4% below the lower threshold

This gives us an overall score of **3**.

Environment

15. This block is primarily made up of performance indicators for 2007. Our performance indicators showed:

- 50% at or above the upper threshold
- 43.3% at or above the lower threshold
- 6.7% below the lower threshold

This gives us an overall score of **3**.

Benefits

16. We achieved a score of **4** for the benefits block. This is based on a self assessment against a series of performance standards. The Benefit Fraud Inspectorate judged the service to be “**Excellent**”, which translated into a score of 4 using the following model:

BFI Assessment	Score given to the Audit Commission for CPA
Excellent	4
Good	3
Fair	2
Poor	1

Use of resources including value for money

17. The use of resources assessment breaks down into 5 themes, performance against each of which is then aggregated into the score for Use of Resources.

Theme	Score
Financial reporting	4
Financial planning and management	4
Financial standing	4
Internal control	4
Value for Money	4

18. These individual scores are then aggregated into the overall Use of Resources score using the model below:

- 4 Two or more themes with a score of 4 and none less than score of 3
 - 3 Three or more themes with a score of 3 or more and none less than a score of 2
 - 2 Three or more themes with a score of 2 or more
 - 1 Any other combination
19. Stockton is one of only two authorities nationwide to score a '4' for each element of the use of resources judgement, and the only council outside London to do so (the other authority to score all 4s is Wandsworth LBC)

Direction of travel

20. This assessment feeds the improvement rating of the council. It focuses on:
- our service improvements in priority areas,
 - our contribution towards wider community outcomes,
 - improving access and quality of services for all citizens, and particularly those who are "harder to reach"
 - improving value for money
 - robust plans for improvement
 - how well improvement planning is being implemented, whether key milestones are being achieved
 - corporate governance
21. Councils could be rated as improving strongly, improving well, improving adequately or not improving adequately / not improving. Our direction of travel rating for 2007 is "improving strongly".

Overall performance

22. Stockton's performance in the Comprehensive Performance Assessment continues to be very strong. A detailed comparison has been carried out and our strong performance across all aspects of the assessment defines us as the highest performing council in England.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

CPA includes assessing the council against legal duties and judgements about our use of financial resources

RISK ASSESSMENT

Low

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

CPA cuts across all Community Strategy Themes

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This report has not been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment as it reflects the Audit Commission's judgements on the council rather than a decision being made. The CPA framework takes account of equality related issues.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD COUNCILLORS

N/A

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APPENDIX 1

Weighted Average Aggregate Scoring model

Weighted average aggregate score	Overall service score
Below 1.85	1
1.85 to less than 2.5	2
2.5 to 3.15	3
Above 3.15	4