

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Organisational Assessment (Summary version)

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Provided under embargo



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for an independent overview
of local public services

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Overall, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council performs well

Managing performance	3 out of 4
Use of resources	4 out of 4
Managing finances	4 out of 4
Governing the business	4 out of 4
Managing resources	3 out of 4

Description of scores:

1. An organisation that does not meet minimum requirements, Performs Poorly
2. An organisation that meets only minimum requirements, Performs Adequately
3. An organisation that exceeds minimum requirements, Performs Well
4. An organisation that significantly exceeds minimum requirements, Performs Excellently

Summary

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council is performing well and is delivering improvements for local people.

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (the Council) has a clear vision of what Stockton-on-Tees needs and is delivering against its priorities. It has good plans.

The Council has greatly improved the environment and created jobs in the borough. There are visible improvements because of the Council's regeneration work. Stockton-on-Tees is a safer place to live with falling crime because of the Council's work with partners (the police and fire service) through the Safer Stockton Partnership. More houses are being built but not enough are affordable. The Council is taking effective action on reducing CO2 emissions. Recycling is increasing and people are satisfied with their waste service, but people are still producing too much waste. A large number of people use the Council's libraries and participate in cultural events, for example the annual Stockton International Riverside Festival.

The Council provides good leadership across the borough. People can easily understand how the Council arranges its services and how it makes decisions. The Council is good at making sure money is spent on what is most important. It has the money needed to deliver its ambitions. Performance management arrangements are good and the Council has excellent capacity to continue to deliver improvements.

The Council has a strong value for money culture. It has a history of providing high-quality services at low cost. When costs are high, it is the result of careful

decisions to address local priorities. The Council can show improvements resulting from these decisions. It has continued to improve services when faced with limited money and increasing demand. The Council's services perform well. The Council involves local people in setting its priorities and planning its services.

The Council can do better in some areas. The Council and its partners face a major challenge to deliver some of their targets for improvement in the current economic climate. The Council, with its partners, is meeting 6 out of every 10 of its three year Local Area Agreement Targets at present.

Women are living longer in Stockton-on-Tees, but men's life expectancy is not increasing and there are significant differences within Stockton on Tees, on average a man in the least deprived areas lives 11 years longer than those in the most deprived areas.

Children and young people do well at school, but there are too many young people who are not in education employment or training. There had been a drop in the number of pregnant teenage young women but this has recently gone back up. There are too many overweight children in Stockton-on-Tees.

The Council is successfully modernising its care services for adults. However fewer older adults in Stockton-on-Tees than in other places have individual control of how they meet their needs and choosing what services they receive.

Overall the Audit Commission has scored the Council 3 out of 4. Its value for money score is 4 out of 4 and its managing performance score is 3 out of 4. Ofsted has assessed the council's Children's Services as performing well. The Care Quality Commission has assessed the council's Adult Social Services as performing well.

The overall organisational assessment score of 3 is a judgement based on the outcomes that the Council has achieved for the people of Stockton-on-Tees. While the Council has performed well, the Council working with its partners needs to achieve more to reduce inequalities around health, employment and skills and to improve its outcomes from children's services and social care services for adults, in particular to response the personalisation of those services.

CAA looks at how well local public services, working together, are meeting the needs of the people they serve. It's a joint assessment made by a group of independent watchdogs about the performance of local public services, and how likely they are to meet local priorities. From 9 December you will find the results of Comprehensive Area Assessment on the Oneplace website - <http://oneplace.direct.gov.uk/>



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