

# **CPA 2005**

# **Key lines of enquiry**

# **for**

# **corporate assessment**

**Summary version**

## INTRODUCTION

Corporate assessment is part of the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) framework. It focuses on the importance of a sound corporate 'engine' to drive good services. It measures how effectively the council is working corporately, and with its partners, to improve services and deliver improved outcomes for local people.

Corporate assessment uses key lines of enquiry (KLOEs) to provide a framework through which to gather and assess evidence about how effectively the council is working. The corporate assessment KLOEs for CPA 2005 measure how well councils understand their local communities and neighbourhoods; how this understanding of local people and places translates into councils' ambitions and priorities; their capacity to deliver these; and what councils are achieving.

### Headline questions, themes and sub-themes

The KLOEs provide a framework to assess the council against five themes arranged under three headline questions:

<i>What is the council, together with its partners, trying to achieve?</i>		
	Theme 1	Ambition for the community
	Theme 2	Prioritisation
<i>What is the capacity of the council, including its work with partners, to deliver what it is trying to achieve?</i>		
	Theme 3	Capacity
	Theme 4	Performance management
<i>What has been achieved?</i>		
	Theme 5	Achievement

Achievement is assessed by examining how well councils are delivering local priorities and outcomes across five sub-themes. These are based on the 'shared priorities' agreed by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's central and local government partnership. The five sub-themes are:

- Sustainable communities and transport
- Safer and stronger communities
- Healthier communities
- Older people
- Children and young people

The key questions for each theme (and, for achievement, each sub-theme) can be found on the following pages.

### Judgement and scoring

The teams judge each theme and assign a score using the following table:

Theme score	Description	Judgement
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

### Reporting

The corporate assessment report will set out conclusions on each main theme and the associated scores. It will also provide an executive summary. This provides an overall summary of the council's performance, based on the three headline questions and assessment of each theme. In addition, it will include clear statements on each of the following:

- community leadership;
- political and managerial leadership;
- user focus and diversity; and
- value for money.

For further information on judgement and scoring (including the criteria for judgement), and reporting please refer to the full length version of this document. This can be found at [www.audit-commission.gov.uk](http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk)

## **What is the council, together with its partners, trying to achieve?**

### **Themes and key questions**

#### **1. Ambition for the community**

- 1.1 Are there clear and challenging ambitions for the area and its communities?
- 1.2 Are ambitions based on a shared understanding amongst the council and partner organisations of local needs?
- 1.3 Does the council with its partners provide leadership across the community and ensure effective partnership working?

#### **2. Prioritisation**

- 2.1 Are there clear and robust priorities within the ambitions for the area?
- 2.2 Is there a robust strategy to deliver the priorities?
- 2.3 Is robust action taken to deliver the strategy?

## **What is the capacity of the council, including its work with partners, to deliver what it is trying to achieve?**

### **Themes and key questions**

#### **3. Capacity**

- 3.1 Is there clear accountability and decision-making to support service delivery and continuous improvement?
- 3.2 Is capacity used effectively and developed to deliver ambitions and priorities?
- 3.3 Does the council, with its partners, have the capacity it needs to achieve change and deliver its priorities?

#### **4. Performance management**

- 4.1 Is there a consistent, rigorous and open approach to performance management?
- 4.2 Do the council and partner organisations know how well they and each other are performing against planned outcomes?

**4.3** Is knowledge about performance used to drive continuous improvement in outcomes?

## **What has been achieved?**

### **Theme, sub-themes and key questions**

## **5. Achievement**

### **Summary of achievement**

**5.1** What progress has the council made in delivering its priorities and improving quality of life for local people?

### **Sustainable communities and transport**

**5.2** What has the council, with its partners, achieved in its ambitions to develop sustainable communities, integrating economic, social and environmental issues?

### **Safer and stronger communities**

**5.3.** What has the council, with its partners, achieved in its ambitions for building safer and stronger communities?

### **Healthier communities**

**5.4** What has the council, with its partners, achieved in its ambitions for the promotion of healthier communities and the narrowing of health inequalities?

### **Older people**

**5.5.** What has the council, with its partners, achieved in its ambitions to promote and support the independence and well-being of older people?

## **Children and young people**

Normally (when the Joint Area Review (JAR) and corporate assessment are happening at the same time), the description and judgement of the council's and its partners' contributions to the quality of outcomes for children and young people will be summarised from the JAR report. In the exceptional circumstances where the two processes do not take place at the same time, the Ofsted/CSCI annual performance assessment for children and young people's services will form the basis of this section of the report.