

COMMITTEE: EXECUTIVE Ref No: E/09/71
DATE: 15 DECEMBER 2009
SUBJECT: COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT
SCORE
PORTFOLIO HOLDER: COUNCILLOR LIZ HARSANT
DIRECTOR: JONATHAN OWEN

Short description of report content and the decision requested:

This report provides an overall summary of the Government's Comprehensive Area assessment score for Suffolk and Organisational Assessment for Ipswich Borough Council provided by the Audit Commission and Price Waterhouse Coopers.

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This report was prepared after consultation with:

*Internal consultees
Leader of the Council
Finance Portfolio Holder
Chief Executive
Directors
Heads of Service*

external consultees

The following policies form a context to this report:
(all relevant policies must also be referred to in the body of the report)

Transforming Ipswich

This report **is not** a key decision included in the Forward Plan

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AS REQUIRED BY LAW

(papers relied on to write the report but which are not published and do not contain exempt information –

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OTHER HELPFUL PAPERS

(papers which the report author considers might be helpful – this might include published material)

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) – Organisational Assessment2. Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) – Area assessment |
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Attached to this report is the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) score for Suffolk and the CAA Organisational Assessment Score for Ipswich Borough Council.

2. Background

- 2.1 In September 2003 the Council underwent a Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) by the Audit Commission.
- 2.2 The Council was rated as 'good' overall (the scale is excellent /good/ fair/ weak/ poor) and has maintained an annual positive direction of travel each year since.
- 2.3 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 sets out the revised local performance framework Comprehensive Area Assessment. The new framework was developed to shift the focus of inspection under CPA which concentrated on assessing individual services and organisations to a process which supports improving outcomes in an area focusing on how well local public bodies work with each other, the private and third sectors, other organisations and the community.
- 2.4 The key elements of CAA are:
- Area Assessment (Suffolk)
 - Organisational Assessment of Ipswich Borough Council
 - Use of Resources
 - Managing Performance

Area Assessment for Suffolk (more info on published data)

- 2.5 The Area Assessment focuses on the prospects for better outcomes on local priorities.
- 2.6 Where there are agreed outcomes that are not on track given the current activities undertaken and planned the Audit Commission have indicated this by a red flag. If there is exceptional performance or outstanding improvement in outcomes from which others could learn lessons it has indicated this by a green flag.
- 2.7 The Green Flags identified are
- Developing 'Green' Technologies
 - Coastal development in Bawdsey
 - Street Prostitution in Ipswich

2.8 the Red Flags identified are

- Rural economic inequality and lack of high value jobs
- Learning and Skills outcomes

2.9 The Suffolk Area Assessment provides further explanation against the following key themes (Appendix 1).

- Delivering a vibrant and prosperous economy
- Ensuring people are healthy
- Ensuring people are safe
- Ensuring that communities are inclusive
- Greening Suffolk
- Learning and skills outcomes

Organisational Assessment for Ipswich Borough Council

2.10 The Organisational Assessment includes both the scores for the Managing Performance and Use of Resources elements of the CAA.

2.11 Overall, Ipswich Borough Council performs well.

Managing Performance	3 out of 4
Use of Resources	3 out of 4
- Managing Finances	3 out of 4
- Governing the Business	3 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 requirement, Performs Excellently

2.12 The table below shows the number of district councils who achieved level 1 – 4 within the Use of Resources assessment. The shaded row shows Ipswich overall position.

Use of Resources Score	National	East Region	Suffolk
1	7	1	0
2	137	29	3
3	69	11	4
4	1	0	0

2.13 This is an excellent result given the rising expectations of the CAA framework and the increased emphasis on delivering improved ‘outcomes’. The results demonstrate a clear improvement in the way Ipswich Borough Council manages its business, the quality of services it delivers and the positive impact on residents and service users.

3. Policy Context

3.1 The Audit Commission’s assessment of the Council considers how well we are meeting the Corporate Plan – Transforming Ipswich as well as national policy drivers.

4. Performance Monitoring

4.1 The Council’s Corporate Risk Register & Use of Resources action plan will be updated to take account of any improvement issues identified in assessment reports.

5. Risk Management

Risk ID	Consequence of risk	Risk Controls	Probability of risk occurring taking account of controls (Scale A-F) A- Very likely F - almost impossible	Impact of risk, if it occurred taking account of actions (Scale 1 – Catastrophic 4 - Negligible)	Actions to mitigate risk
1.	The Council does not consolidate the main issues arising from the CAA & Managing Performance assessment into the Council's Corporate Risk Register.	There is a Director lead responsible for overseeing the CAA process. Regular Review of the Corporate Risk Register.	3	C	Collate all issues arising from assessment and incorporate into the Council's Corporate Risk Register
2.	The Council does not have sufficient capacity to deliver a revised improvement plan	Any issues detailed requiring improvement is allocated to the relevant Head of Service and included in the relevant Business Plan	3	C	Co-ordinated centrally by the Performance Unit. Regular review of Business Plans.
3.	The Council fails to improve in the areas in the Use of Resources Statement	Key elements of the Use of Resources element allocated to lead officers	3	C	Regular review and Use of Resources action plan development. Attendance at PWC masterclass to 'learn lessons'.

4.	The Council does not have sufficient capacity to achieve improvements over time in the new national indicator set.	Any new National Indicators are taken into consideration within the relevant Head of Service Business Plan. Each PI is owned by a manager, Director and PH and is reviewed quarterly.	3	C	Regular review of Head of Service Business Plans. Quarterly review of National Indicators
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6. Environmental Impact Assessment

6.1 There are no environmental issues directly arising from this report.

7. Equalities and Diversity Implications

7.1 The Council has statutory duties placed on it to positively progress equality and diversity in all that it does both as an employer and as a service provider.

7.2 In particular this means that the Council has to carry out Equality Impact assessments on all major decisions over changes to policy and service provision.

7.3 The recommendations detailed in this report have been assessed using the Council's Equality Impact screening process and have been judged as unlikely to have a negative impact on the equality areas: Race, Disability, Gender, Age, Sexual orientation or Faith/Belief.

8. Financial Considerations

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9. Recommendations:-

9.1 Executive notes the CAA assessment for Suffolk and the Organisational Assessment for Ipswich Borough Council and asks officers to bring a further report to the Committee up-dating the Corporate Risk Register and Use of Resources Action Plan to address the issues identified.

Reason: the council needs to recognise and address areas for improvement.

APPENDICES TO FOLLOW:

(The final versions of these reports have been embargoed until 10 December and will follow accordingly)

- 1) Suffolk Area Assessment**
- 2) Ipswich Borough Council – Organisational Assessment**
- 3) Ipswich Borough Council – Use of Resources – Assessment Results 2009**