

**SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 2 APRIL 2008****CPA CORPORATE ASSESSMENT – FINAL REPORT AND  
CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN****REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE****Purpose of report**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Commission of the results of the corporate assessment of the Council by the Audit Commission and to seek the Commission's views on the draft CPA Corporate Improvement Plan to be considered by Cabinet on 8 April.

**Background**

2. The existing national performance management arrangements for local government require the Audit Commission to carry out a corporate assessment of top tier councils on a three year cycle. The County Council is committed to using the outcomes of external inspections and peer challenge to ensure continuous improvement in both its management and services.

**Corporate Assessment and CPA**

3. Corporate assessment is one element in the overall process that leads to a CPA score and category. The other elements (see Appendix A) include a Use of Resources assessment and service assessments relating to Children and Young People (including results from the Joint Area Review), Adult Social Care, Culture and the Environment. An annual judgement of progress is also made through the annual direction of travel statement.
4. The corporate assessment of Leicestershire was undertaken by a team from the Audit Commission and took place over the period from 26 September to 26 October 2007. The purpose of the assessment is to assess how well the Council engages with and leads its communities, delivers community priorities in partnership with others and ensures continuous improvement across the range of Council activities.

### **Main Findings from the Assessment**

5. A copy of the full corporate assessment inspection report is attached as Appendix B. The Leicestershire report is extremely positive and highlights many areas of good practice, performance and achievement by the Council and its partners. A summary of the assessment scores are set out below.

<b>Headline Question</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Score</b>
What is the Council together with its partners trying to achieve?	Ambition	4 – performing strongly
	Prioritisation	3 – performing well
What is the capacity of the Council including its work with partners, to deliver what it is trying to achieve?	Capacity	3 – performing well
	Performance Management	3 – performing well
What has been achieved?	Achievement	3 – performing well
<b>Overall corporate assessment score</b>		3 – performing well

### **Improvement Action Plan**

6. The report makes just one substantive recommendation for improvement:-
- ‘The Council needs to ensure that its excellent relationships with most stakeholders are replicated with its District Councils. Although operational cooperation between the Council and the districts exists, not all districts are satisfied with relationships at a strategic level.’*
7. The report and corporate assessment process also recorded a small number of additional areas where actions are underway and the Authority is seeking to improve further.
8. A draft Action Plan is being prepared as the Council’s response to the issues arising from the corporate assessment process and will be considered by Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> April. A copy of this report will be circulated to members of the Scrutiny Commission within the next few days.

### **Recommendations**

9. (a) That the results and key messages arising from the Audit Commission corporate assessment of the Authority be noted;
- (b) That the Commission comment on the draft Corporate Improvement Plan to respond to the improvement issues highlighted in the corporate assessment process.

### **Circulation under Sensitive Issues Procedure**

10. The report relates to improvements in the Council and in partnership working affecting the whole County area and as such there are no issues affecting particular local members or areas.

### **Officers to Contact**

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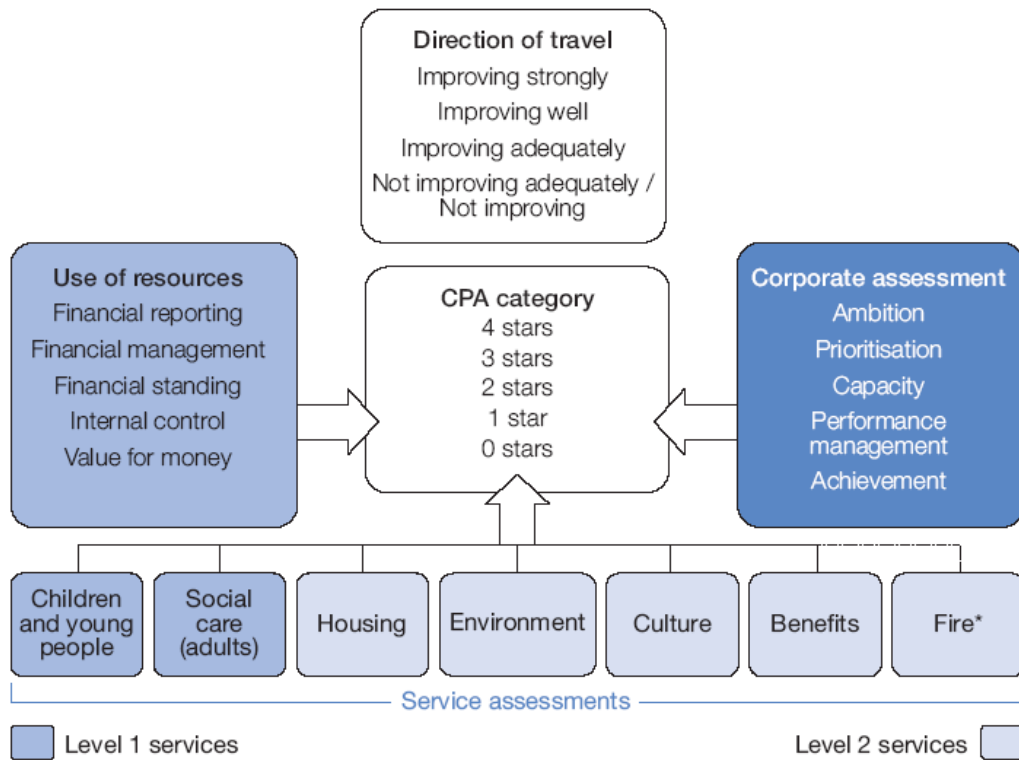
### **Background Papers**

County Council Corporate Assessment Self-Assessment  
Audit Commission Corporate Assessment Report 2007

### **Appendices**

Elements of the CPA Framework  
Audit Commission Corporate Assessment Report 2007

# APPENDIX A



**\*Note:** Fire and Rescue service assessment – applicable to those 16 councils with responsibility for fire and rescue.