

Comprehensive Performance Assessment

Performance Select Committee, 14 June 2006, item 8

Committee:	Performance Select Committee	Agenda Item
Date:	14 June 2006	8
Title:	Comprehensive Performance Assessment	
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Summary

The document updates the Committee on the CPA framework for district councils.

Recommendations

The Committee to note the developing framework for district CPA.

Background Papers

CPA District Council Framework from 2006, Audit Commission, April 2006

Impact

Communication/Consultation	Self evaluation against the expected final criteria is underway, and further dialogue will take place with the Relationship Manager before any decision on re-categorisation takes place
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Finance	None
Human Rights	None
Legal implications	None
Ward-specific impacts	All
Workforce/Workplace	The proposed methodology is expected to be less resource intensive and should put less strain on capacity

Situation

1. Since the introduction of Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) in 2002 there have been a number of changes in the operational and regulatory framework which impact on the future CPA methodology for district councils. A number of consultation documents have been issued and

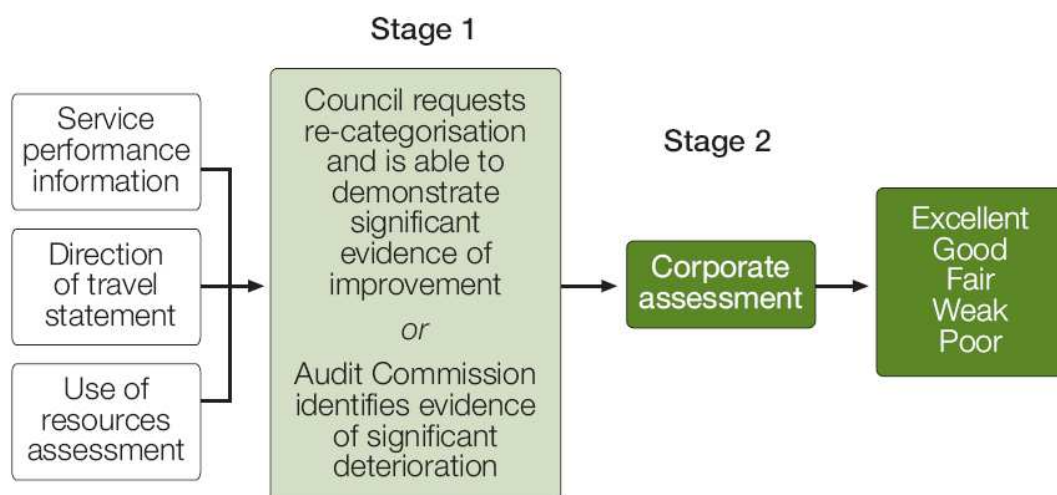
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the current situation in relation to district council CPA is detailed in the following analysis. The confirmed framework for district CPA is expected to be announced at the end of July 2006.

2. The option preferred in the most recent consultation was for the Commission to identify whether further activity was required to assess whether the council should be re-categorised. The Commission therefore propose to undertake re-categorisation activity only where there is significant evidence to indicate a potential change in CPA category. This will only apply:
 - where councils can demonstrate performance that is significantly better than that identified in the original corporate assessment, and where the council wants to be considered for re-categorisation; or
 - where there is evidence of a significant deterioration in service or corporate performance which would potentially result in re-categorisation if another corporate assessment were carried out.

District council CPA re-categorisation from 2006



Source: Audit Commission

3. Decisions on re-categorisation will be made regionally by Commission panels comprising out of region Commission representatives and Council peer representatives.
4. Key sources of evidence will include:
 - Use of resources assessment (scored)
 - Direction of travel statements

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- Service performance information summarised to show performance change between 2002/3 and current, any service inspection reports, and Benefits Fraud Inspectorate scores
 - Other relevant evidence of improvement or deterioration
5. District Council CPA re-categorisation **will not** introduce a harder test. The categories will stay the same and corporate assessment broadly similar, to ensure comparability with the initial phase.
6. The first reassessments will take place in January 2007. The programming of councils prioritised for reassessment will depend on:
- Proximity to next category boundary in the 2003/4 assessment
 - Length of time since the last published CPA category; and
 - Strength of evidence for re-categorisation.

Use of resources

7. Following a review of the use of resources assessments carried out in 2005/6 and subsequent consultation, the Commission propose to phase in changes to the use of resources key lines of enquiry (KLOE) by:
- Incorporating wording modifications to the 2006 assessment
 - Deferring to the 2007 assessment the alignment of the assessment to the financial year
 - Deferring to the 2007 assessment the upgrade of specified criteria to 'must have' status
 - Requiring only councils scoring 1 for value for money to produce a new self assessment (councils scoring more will only be asked to submit an updated self-assessment to reflect significant changes).
8. The KLOE to be used for the assessments to be reported in March 2007 are available from the Audit Commission website www.audit-commission.gov.uk

Direction of Travel

9. The evidence collected in the course of preparing direction of travel statements will inform decisions about re-categorisation. The Commission propose to introduce some common statements to use to report progress in annual audit and inspection letters in a consistent way.

Service Performance Information

10. Service performance information will form a key part of the evidence considered for re-categorisation. This will include:
- Analysis of performance indicators; and
 - Inspection scores – Commission inspections and from regulators such as the BFI.

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11. The Commission will be producing a tool for district councils which will set out improvement and current performance on an agreed set of performance indicators. The PIs which the Commission intend to include are set out as Appendix A.
12. The Commission will be considering extent, strength, and areas of improvement. District councils will also be able to use other performance information as part of the evidence they use when making a case for re-categorisation.

Corporate assessment

13. Self assessment remains the starting point for corporate assessment. Changes proposed to make corporate assessment more streamlined and less resource intensive include:
 - No diagnostic assessments
 - Auditors judgement (now use of resources) and BFI assessments are no longer separate components
 - Involvement of a council peer in the assessment process
 - Five corporate assessment themes instead of ten
 - More pre-site analysis to minimise on-site work; and
 - Web based stakeholder surveys for key partners in the locality.

Key questions and themes

14. The new KLOE have been updated, but map across to the original KLOE used.

Corporate assessment from 2006: key questions and themes

Key questions	Themes
1. What is the council, together with its partners, trying to achieve?	1. Ambition for the community
	2. Prioritisation
2. What is the capacity of the council, including its work with partners, to deliver what it is trying to achieve?	3. Capacity
	4. Performance management
3. What has been achieved?	5. Achievement of improvement

Scoring

15. The scoring system for the corporate assessment themes will remain a four point scale, but with some changes to the labels as follows:

Score	Label
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4	Well above minimum requirements – performing strongly
3	Consistently above minimum requirements – performing well
2	At only minimum requirements – adequate performance
1	Below minimum requirements – inadequate performance

16. The weightings have been adjusted to take account of five themes instead of ten:

Theme	Weighting
Ambition	2
Prioritisation	2
Capacity	2
Performance management	2
Achievement	7

17. District councils will continue to be categorised as before, but with amended banded scores:

Category	Required score
Excellent	45-60
Good	36-44
Fair	28-35
Weak	21-27
Poor	20 or less

Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
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The Audit Commission believes that insufficient improvement has taken place for the Council to apply for re-categorisation	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue dialogue with Relationship Manager• Progress actions arising from Annual Audit Letter• Develop new Corporate Improvement Plan and progress actions• Complete self-evaluation against criteria
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Appendix A



District Council CPA – performance information set for use in the analysis of service performance information

The proposed performance information (PI) set for use in the analysis of service performance information is supplementary to *CPA – District Council Framework from 2006* – consultation document available at <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/cpa/districts/>

Description of PI	Source and reference
Time taken to determine planning applications against targets	BVPI - BV 109a,b,c and Office Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) - including PS2 return
Satisfaction of applicants with planning service	BVPI – BV 111
Cleanliness of public places (litter and detritus)	BVPI – BV 199a - data at land-use class level is held by Department Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and underlies BVPI 199
Provision of kerbside recycling collection (one recyclable)	BVPI – BV 91a
Satisfaction with waste collection	BVPI – BV 90a
Satisfaction with recycling	BVPI – BV 90b
Percentage of standard planning searches carried out within 10 working days	BVPI – BV 179
Environmental health checklist	BVPI – BV 166a
Satisfaction with the cleanliness of public space	BVPI – BV 89
Recycling and composting performance	BVPI – BV 82a + 82b
Use of brown-field land for housing	BVPI – BV 106
Energy requirements of council housing	BVPI – BV 63
Tonnage of waste per head of population	BVPI – BV 84
The proportion of non-decent LA homes	BVPI – BV 184a
Percentage change over year of local authority decent homes	BVPI – BV 184b

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Description of PI	Source and reference
Urgent repairs in time	HIP – BPSA section E5 (previously BV 72)
Average time for non-urgent repairs	HIP – BPSA section E6 (previously BV 73)
Percentage of responsive repairs for which local authority made and kept an appointment	BVPI – BV 185
Rent collection and arrears	BVPI – BV 66a
Average re-let times	HIP – BPSA section E3 (previously BV 68 – reintroduced as a BV 212 from 2005/06)
Average weekly management cost	HIP – BPSA section E1 (previously BV 65a)
CRE code for rented housing	BVPI – BV 164
Council homes SAP ratings	BVPI – BV 63
Overall satisfaction with housing service	BVPI – BV 74a
Satisfaction with opportunities to participate	BVPI – BV 75a
Average time in temporary accommodation – time spent in B&B	BVPI – BV 183a
Average time in temporary accommodation – time spent in hostels	BVPI – BV 183b
Repeat homelessness acceptances	HIP – section E1b
Private unfit made fit	HIP – HSSA (previously BVPI – BV 62)
Percentage of total private sector homes vacant for more than 6 months	HIP – HSSA section A1 and A7
Racial incidents with further action	BVPI – BV 175
Domestic refuge places	BVPI – BV 176
Resident satisfaction parks / open spaces	BVPI – BV 119e
Resident satisfaction sport/ leisure facilities	BVPI – BV 119a
Resident satisfaction museums / galleries	BVPI – BV 119c
Resident satisfaction theatres / concert halls	BVPI – BV 119d