



---

## Report of the Head of Policy, Performance and Improvement

### Executive Board

Date: 14 March 2007

Subject: Leeds Comprehensive Performance Assessment Scorecard 2006

---

**Electoral Wards Affected:**

None specifically

**Specific Implications For:**

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In

(Details contained in the report)

---

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report informs Members that in this year's Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) ratings, the Council has been judged by the Audit Commission as a 3 star authority, down one star from last year.

The Audit Commission's assessment recognises that over the last year we have continued to improve across the generality of our services, but revisions to last year's methodology have resulted in a lower score for the culture services block and this, in turn, has had the effect of lowering the council's overall star-rating.

## 1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform Members of our CPA rating for 2006

## 2.0 Background Information

2.1 The CPA is an annual assessment of all local authorities carried out by the Audit Commission. The assessment has a number of scored components:

- i) A corporate assessment (CA) which judges how good the council's corporate capacity is to drive improved outcomes across the locality;
- ii) Level 1 service block assessments for the key service areas of adults, children and young people and use of resources;
- iii) Level 2 service block assessments for housing, environment, culture and benefits, and;
- iv) A direction of travel judgment which assesses the rate at which improvement is being achieved.

## 3.0 Main Issues

3.1 The Leeds City Council scorecard is given below.

| <b>CPA Scorecard – Leeds City Council</b> | <b>2005</b>    | <b>2006</b>   |
|---|----------------|---------------|
| Corporate Assessment                      | 3              | 3             |
| <b>Level 1 Key Service Areas:</b>         |                |               |
| Social Care Adults                        | 3              | 3             |
| Children and Young People                 | 3              | 3             |
| Use of Resources                          | 3              | 3             |
| <b>Level 2 Service Areas</b>              |                |               |
| Environment                               | 3              | 3             |
| Culture                                   | 4              | 2             |
| Housing                                   | 3              | 3             |
| Benefits                                  | 3              | 3             |
|   |                |               |
| Direction of Travel (DoT)                 | Improving well | Under review  |
| <b>Overall Star Rating</b>                | <b>4 Star</b>  | <b>3 Star</b> |

3.2 Our Direction of Travel judgement is subject to review following our decision, in common with a number of other authorities, to request a review of the Audit Commission's initial verdict. We are of the view that in undertaking their assessment the Audit Commission have failed to take into consideration the full range of evidence available to them and that they have, therefore, potentially understated our level of improvement over the last year. Our request for review has been accepted and the review should be concluded in the next 4 to 6 weeks.

3.3 Overall, detailed performance in all key areas has been maintained or has improved since the 2005 assessment. Members should note, however, that revisions to the methodology since last year's CPA assessment have resulted in a lower assessment score for the culture services block and this, in turn, has had the effect of lowering the council's overall star-rating.

- 3.4 Leeds, along with a number of other cities, have been at variance with the Audit Commission for some months on the proposed revisions to the culture block, as a consequence of our very real concerns about the appropriateness and reliability of some of the performance indicators being used to measure performance in this area. Unfortunately, the Audit Commission were of a different view and, therefore, the new methodology remained for the 2006 assessment.
- 3.5 Although the Audit Commission are currently making proposals for fundamental changes to the National Performance Management Framework, CPA in its current form will remain with us for at least another 18 months.
- 3.6 The CPA framework and detailed methodology is complex and as a consequence of our drop in star rating, officers consider that it would be appropriate to recommend to Overview and Scrutiny Committee that an inquiry be undertaken on this matter, with a particular focus on our predicted CPA position for future years.

#### **4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance**

- 4.1 None specifically.

#### **5.0 Legal and Resource Implications**

- 5.1 None specifically.

#### **6.0 Recommendations**

- 6.1 Members are asked to;
- i) Note the contents of the report;
  - ii) Request that officers report back to Members on the result of the Audit Commission's review of our Direction of Travel judgement; and
  - iii) Recommend to Overview and Scrutiny that an inquiry be undertaken on this matter, with a particular focus on our predicted CPA position for future years.