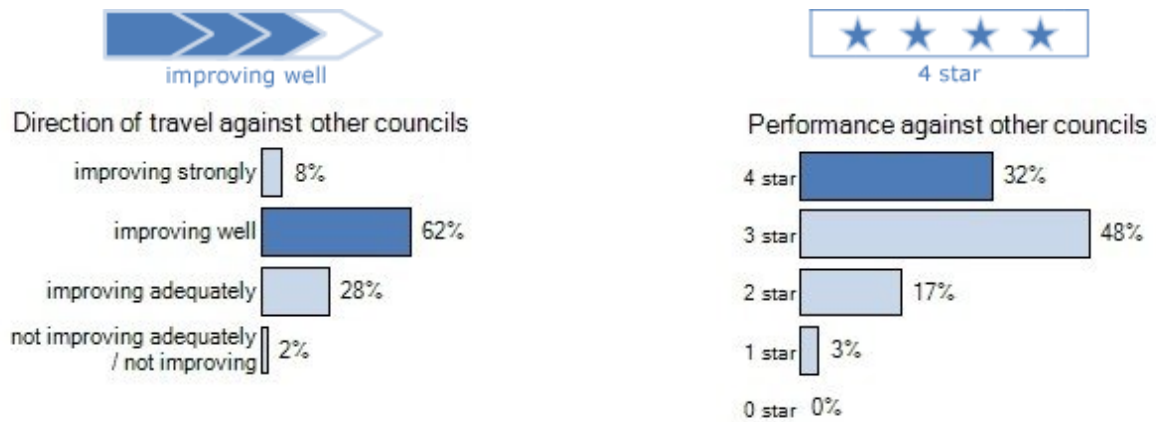


Sunderland City Council

Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) scorecard 2006

Overall performance for this Council

This is a Council that is improving well and demonstrating a 4 star overall performance.



We reached this overall rating by looking at:

- What progress Sunderland City Council has made in the last year – direction of travel
- How Sunderland City Council manages its finances and provides value for money – use of resources
- How Sunderland City Council's main services perform – service performance
- How Sunderland City Council is run – corporate assessment

Service assessments, use of resources and corporate assessments are scored on the Local Services Inspectorate Forum scale:

- 1 = Inadequate performance – below minimum requirements
- 2 = Adequate performance – only at minimum requirements
- 3 = Performing well – consistently above minimum requirements
- 4 = Performing strongly – well above minimum requirements

Direction of travel

The progress Sunderland City Council has made in the last year

Direction of travel	2005	2006
This assessment indicates the progress being made, or otherwise, to achieve improvement.	improving well	improving well

The following summary has been provided to support this direction of travel assessment:

The Council is improving services in its priority areas. It has delivered improvements in educational attainment at key stages 3 and 4. The number of teenage pregnancies has reduced and access to health services has improved through the introduction of wellness clinics. Crime levels have fallen, including fewer domestic burglaries, less robberies and stolen cars, but fear of crime remains a priority. The Council has made substantial progress in improving the economy and in processing planning applications. Access and quality of services to its diverse communities have improved through a network of customer service centres. Housing services have improved and independence amongst older people is being promoted through direct payments. Council tax remains one of the lowest levels in the country. Overall satisfaction with the Council remains above average. Recycling targets have been met but levels of waste collected remain high. The Council improved its capacity to deliver its priorities, through attracting external funding and developing successful partnerships. Progress has been made in reducing sickness absence. Financial management arrangements have improved and are strong.

This Council will receive a corporate assessment within the next few months which may bring to light additional evidence relevant to this assessment.

Use of resources

How Sunderland City Council manages its finances and provides value for money

Use of resources	2005	2006
We have assessed how well the Council manages its finances and provides value for money.	3	4

This use of resources judgement is drawn from five individual judgements provided by the Council's appointed auditor:

Auditor judgements	2006
Financial reporting	3
Financial management	3
Financial standing	4
Internal control	4
Value for money	3

Service performance

How Sunderland City Council's main services perform

Service area	2005	2006
Benefits - The Council's performance in providing housing and council tax benefit services. The assessment is made by the Benefit Fraud Inspectorate and is based primarily on achievement against the 2005 H housing benefits/council tax benefits performance standards.	4	4
Children and young people - The Council's performance in providing children's services, such as children's education and social care. The joint assessment is made by the Commission for Social Care Inspection) and Ofsted following a review of the Council's overall performance and key indicators.	3	3
Culture - The Council's performance in services, such as libraries and leisure, as assessed by the Audit Commission.	4	3
Environment - The Council's performance in services, such as transport, planning and waste, as assessed by the Audit Commission.	2	2
Housing - The Council's performance in community housing and, where applicable, housing management services, as assessed by the Audit Commission.	3	4
Social care (adults) - The Council's performance in adult social care services. The assessment is made by the Commission for Social Care Inspection following a review of the Council's overall performance and key indicators.	3	3

Corporate assessment

How Sunderland City Council is run

Corporate assessment	2006
In assessing how the Council is run, the Commission considers what the Council, together with its partners, is trying to achieve; what the capacity of the Council, including its work with partners, is to deliver what it is trying to achieve; and what has been achieved?	4

Score used is from the 2002 corporate assessment.

The way we carried out corporate assessments changed from 2005 onwards. Until 2008, when all councils will have been assessed using the new-style corporate assessment, the CPA category will be based on either its new corporate assessment score or the previous one if that is higher.

Please visit the Audit Commission website (www.audit-commission.gov.uk) for the full version of this scorecard.