

Huntingdonshire District Council

Organisational Assessment (Summary version)

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Provided under embargo



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for an independent overview
of local public services

Huntingdonshire District Council

Overall, Huntingdonshire District Council performs well

Managing performance	3 out of 4
Use of resources	2 out of 4
Managing finances	2 out of 4
Governing the business	2 out of 4
Managing resources	2 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 requirements, Performs Excellently

Summary

Overall Huntingdonshire District Council performs well. The Council is improving most areas that matter to local people. It stays focused on delivering its aims. Residents are happy with the area as a place to live. More residents than average are happy with the way the Council runs things. Access to services is better and good performance management means some services are improving. There are sound financial planning and management arrangements and the Council has enough capable people and finances to continue improving.

There is a difference between the scores for use of resources and managing performance. We decided that the score should be that overall Huntingdonshire District Council performs well rather than adequately. This is because the Council is improving most areas that matter locally and residents are happy with the area and the way the Council runs things. There is a continuing focus on priorities and working with partners is increasing the Council's ability to improve the area. Financial management is sound and there are enough resources to allow continuing improvement.

Huntingdonshire District Council scores 3 out of 4 for managing its performance. The Council is improving most areas that matter to local people. Waste management is good and recycling and composting continues to improve. Crime levels overall have fallen and remain comparatively low but burglary has risen dramatically in 2008/09. The Council works well with many partners.

People can access Council services more easily now through the customer service centre and satisfaction levels with that service are high. The Council

has responded quickly to the economic downturn with interventions tailored to the local economy. High numbers of houses which local people can afford have been completed. Early successes on action to combat climate change have been achieved.

Council leaders stay focused on priorities. Effective performance management is improving poorer performing services, such as Planning. Benefits claims are processed more quickly. Leisure centres have improved and are used more. Public consultation influences the way services develop, for example in Oxmoor and Eynesbury. Joint working with other public service providers, voluntary organisations and private companies is increasing the Council's ability to improve the area.

Huntingdonshire District Council scores 2 out of 4 for its use of resources. This recognises that while the Council's financial processes are mostly good, it is not always clear that this results in better services for the public. There is sound financial management which has resulted in a robust medium term financial strategy. The Council has good and effective governance, risk management and internal control arrangements.

CAA looks at how well local public services, working together, are meeting the needs of the people they serve. It's a joint assessment made by a group of independent watchdogs about the performance of local public services, and how likely they are to meet local priorities. From 9 December you will find the results of Comprehensive Area Assessment on the Oneplace website - <http://oneplace.direct.gov.uk/>



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