



Councillor John Campion
Leader of the Council

Ian Miller

Chief Executive

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date: 9th December, 2009

All Members

Wyre Forest District Council

Dear Councillor,

COMPREHENSIVE AREA ASSESSMENT (CAA)
ORGANISATIONAL ASSESSMENT

You will be aware that in April this year the Government introduced a new approach for assessing the performance of local public services in an area called Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA).

There are two aspects of CAA, an organisational assessment which gives a rating for individual public bodies on how they manage the use of their resources and performance and an area assessment that assesses what organisations deliver collectively for their communities.

We are pleased to attach the Council's organisational assessment report which has been published today by the Audit Commission. The Council has been found to be performing 'adequately'. It was rated 2 out of 4 for how it manages performance and 2 out of 4 for use of resources.

The assessment recognises the excellent work the Council has done to date in responding to the financial challenges we face and that we are making progress on our priorities, including an increase in affordable housing, improvements in applying for social rented housing and our regeneration work with partners in both Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn.

Chief Executive

Civic Centre

New Street

Stourport on Severn

Worcs, DY13 8UJ

Through our own performance management and customer feedback we are already aware of the areas for improvement and these are embedded in our service and corporate plans. However the report, along with other information, will help us to continue to refine our future plans as we aim to give customers a better experience in this challenging financial climate.

We are both looking forward to working with councillors and employees to continue the improvements that the council has already made so that, over time, we receive better scores in these assessments. 'Adequate' should never be enough for us. The Council should aspire to delivering quality, responsive services for local residents and businesses in the most efficient way possible. However we have to recognise that the situation for public finances is very challenging and the speed of progress will be hindered by any reductions in Government funding for local councils announced in the pre-budget report

We are also pleased to attach a copy of the Area Assessment for Worcestershire which again has been published today and looks at how well organisations deliver collectively for their communities across Worcestershire. This report will be considered by the Wyre Forest Matters Partnership Board on 14th December 2009. Issues arising from the report that require a Wyre Forest partnership approach and the support of the Council will be considered as part of our business planning processes.

We shall look forward to discussing both Assessments further with you when we attend the Corporate Resources Scrutiny Committee on 14th January 2010.

Yours sincerely,



John Champion
Leader of the Council



Ian Miller
Chief Executive