

Isle of Wight Council

Organisational Assessment (Summary version)

Dated 9 December 2009



oneplace

for an independent overview
of local public services

Isle of Wight Council

Overall, Isle of Wight Council performs adequately

Managing performance	2 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 the Isle of Wight Council performs adequately. Some things are being done well and are making a difference for people in the Island. These include looking after the care needs of older people and making sure that the Island is safe and well kept. Other things such as children's educational achievement and affordable housing, especially for rural areas, are not yet as good.

The Council recognises that some areas for improvement require more decisive action and is showing leadership in driving forward a challenging programme to tackle some deep-rooted issues. It is making steady progress in major long term projects such as school reorganisation, modernisation of the fire and rescue service and a scheme to improve roads.

A fair response has been made to the recession, including making sure people do not become homeless and providing access to advice and information. The Council is making limited progress with reducing its carbon footprint and coming up with long term plans for when its waste landfill site is full. The Planning Service is improving and it is making decisions faster.

The Council is making a good contribution to the health and well being of residents. The Care Quality Commission has rated the Council's adult social care services as performing well. The Council has helped to increase independence and reduce the care needs of people in their homes. It is effective in reducing homelessness but is not delivering enough affordable homes. It is helping to improve health through the provision of leisure services but facilities need improving.

The Council is performing well in making sure the island is safe and well kept.

Beaches and parks are well-maintained and roads and public spaces are kept clean and tidy. Roads are in poor condition but there are plans in place to address this. The Council works well with community safety partners to keep crime levels low and dealing with illegal drug use is a particular strength. Reducing domestic violence remains a challenge.

Ofsted has rated the Council's children's services as adequate. The overall effectiveness of most services and schools inspected by Ofsted is good or better, however performance in education and social care is mixed. Performance against most national indicators, including those for staying safe and enjoying and achieving, is in line with or above similar areas. But children's education results in primary and secondary schools are below average and are not improving fast enough. To address this, the Council is on track with ambitious plans to reorganise schools across the Island. The adult and community learning service is good.

Capacity to deliver improvement is mixed. The management structure has been streamlined to improve focus on delivery and performance, and extra staff have been brought in to deliver some key priorities, such as the major highways project. But senior manager vacancies and difficulties of recruiting some key posts mean that capacity is stretched in some areas. Some corporate plans are not yet fully developed or explicit.

The Council's use of its resources has been assessed as adequate. It has satisfactory arrangements for managing its finances, and is good at medium term financial planning. Asset management has improved with the introduction of a strategic plan. Steady progress is being made in implementing plans to transform the way the Council operates. However not all targets have been met and improved processes such as for the capital programme and project management are not yet fully effective.

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/>

Alternative formats - If you require a copy of PDF documents in this site in large print, in Braille, on tape, or in a language other than English, please call: 0844 798 7070

Audit Commission, 1st Floor, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4HQ
Telephone: 0844 798 1212
Fax: 0844 798 2945
Textphone (minicom): 0844 798 2946
www.audit-commission.gov.uk



for an independent overview
of local public services