



## **Report to Cabinet**

**Subject**      Comprehensive Area Assessment  
                         Organisational Assessment result

**Date**            3 December 2009

**Author**        Head of Strategy and Performance

### **1. Purpose of the Report**

§ To inform Cabinet of the result of the first Audit Commission Organisational Assessment of the Council carried out earlier this year.

### **2. Background**

Members will be aware from previous reports that the Audit Commission has introduced a new assessment of councils, called the Organisational Assessment. The former Use of Resources and Direction of Travel Assessments have been brought together in a single, scored Organisational Assessment.

The test is overall a harder one. Key Lines of Enquiry have been substantially revised, as previously reported. Use of Resources is assessed around three broad theme areas, each of which are scored, and standards now required are higher than under previous Use of Resources assessments. Managing Performance is a separate theme area, building on the former Direction of Travel, and is scored for the first time. The two scores are brought together to give a single published Organisational Assessment score.

The Commission has now completed its Organisational Assessment of the Borough Council for 2008/09 and has provided a draft report, under embargo, which is due for publication w/c 7 December (along with reports for all councils). The draft report includes the Borough Council's overall score.

This report sets out that score and extracts key observations from the Commission about the Council and its performance. Once the full report is published, it will be included on the Council's website and copied to all members.

The Organisational Assessment is part of the new Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) framework, which replaced Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) this year. The Audit Commission is now branding CAA as "OnePlace". The other main component of CAA is an Area Assessment, which focuses on how all public

services are working together to improve quality of life in an area – the area in question is a county or unitary authority area. Results of the Nottinghamshire Area Assessment will be reported to the Nottinghamshire Partnership once published and are not covered further in this report.

### **3. Result**

The Council has scored 3 out of 4 overall in its Organisational Assessment and is judged to be “performing well”.

In its draft report, the Commission states that: -

*“Gedling Borough Council performs well overall. Public satisfaction with services is high and value-for-money is good. Council priorities match the concerns of local people, such as making the community safer and improving the local environment – and these areas are improving. Crime rates and fear of crime has reduced. Public places, streets and parks are well looked after”*

Scores for the component parts of the assessment are: -

**Use of Resources** – 2 out of 4 overall

Sub category scores

Managing Finances – 3 out of 4

Governing the business – 2 out of 4

Managing resources – 2 out of 4

**Managing Performance** – 3 out of 4

On Use of Resources, the Commission concludes that: -

“The Council is managing its finances well”, that “it has good plans which are financially sound”, and that “Council Tax remains low and the Council has made good progress with becoming more efficient”.

On Managing Performance, the Commission comments that: -

“Councillors and officers understand the needs of Gedling and their plans and actions are meeting the needs of different groups in the area” It adds that, “The Council works effectively with a wide range of partners to deliver improvements” and cites a range of examples relating to crime and community safety, children and young people’s activities, waste management improvements and community engagement.

### **4. Resource Implications**

None specific to this report, though the Commission’s comments confirm that the Council is managing resources well.

### **5. Recommendation**

Cabinet is **recommended**:

- To note the report