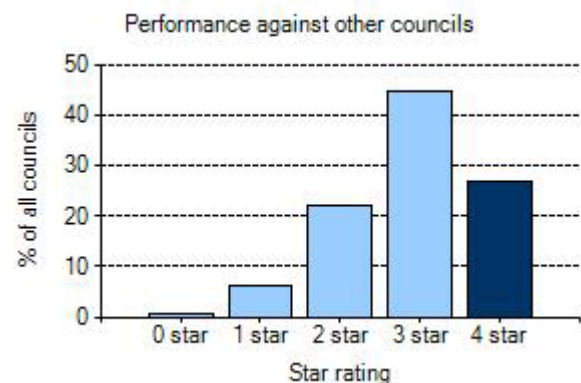
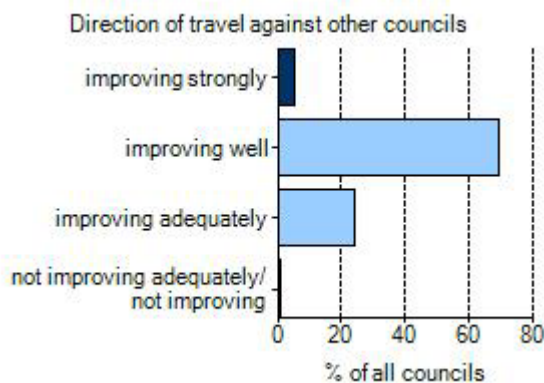


## Kent County Council 2005 scorecard

### Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA)

#### Overall performance for this council

This is a council that is **improving strongly** and demonstrating a **4 star** overall performance.



We reached this overall rating by looking at:

1. How Kent County Council's main services perform – service performance
2. How Kent County Council uses its resources – use of resources
3. How Kent County Council is run – council ability

#### What progress has Kent County Council made in the last year?

It continues to make significant improvements with local priorities. It has improved help for vulnerable people so that they can live independently and so reduced residential care admissions. Caring for looked after children has improved and child protection is good. In education more young people are achieving GCSE grades than before. Road safety and recycling are also improving. The Council has also succeeded in creating new jobs in the county, and more people are participating in learning opportunities. Access to services has improved, with more computers in libraries and 24 hour access to services through the contact centre. Securing value for money and improving efficiency is at the heart of service improvement. The Council's success in these is strong. The Council's track record of improvement is strong. It has robust improvement plans to continue developing innovative services. It is building its capacity well by identifying efficiencies and strengthening partnership working. Financial planning is now strong. It would, however, benefit from developing outcome targets which are more linked to what it is trying to achieve for local people.

## How Kent County Council's main services perform

We have reviewed the core service areas shown below. Each service is scored on a scale of 1 to 4, with 1 being the lowest and 4 being the highest.

Service	2005
<b>Children and young people</b> – The Council's performance in providing children's services. The joint assessment is made by the CSCI and Ofsted following a review of Council overall performance and key indicators.	3
<b>Culture</b> – The Council's contribution to culture services and outcomes as assessed by the Audit Commission. The assessment combines culture inspection reports with a range of performance indicators. For 2005 the overall score used for CPA will be the higher of the 2005 score or the score from the 2004 libraries and leisure block score.	2
<b>Environment</b> – The Council's performance, as assessed by the Audit Commission, in providing environmental services. The assessment is made by combining environment inspection reports with a range of performance indicators.	3
<b>Social care (adults)</b> – The Council's performance in providing adult social care services. The assessment is made by CSCI following a review of Council overall performance and key indicators.	3

## How Kent County Council uses its resources

Kent County Council	2005
<b>Use of resources</b>	3

We have assessed how well the Council manages and uses its use of resources. This use of resources judgement is derived from five individual scores provided by the Council's appointed auditor, covering the following themes:

1. Financial reporting
2. Financial management
3. Financial standing
4. Internal control
5. Value for money

## How Kent County Council is run

Corporate assessments carried out from 2005 onwards have changed. There is now a greater focus on leadership, partnership working, value for money and the achievement of local priorities. The scoring framework has also been revised and for this reason they are not directly comparable with corporate assessments in previous years. All councils will have the new-style corporate assessment by 2008, as part of a rolling programme of corporate assessments and joint area reviews. Until these have been completed the overall CPA category for a council that has a new-style corporate assessment will be based on either its new or the previous corporate assessment score, whichever is the higher.

### Council ability

2005

**Score used is from the 2002 corporate assessment**

**4**

In assessing how the Council is run, the Commission considers three questions:

1. What is the Council, together with its partners trying to achieve?
2. What is the capacity of the Council, including its work with partners, to deliver what it is trying to achieve?
3. What has been achieved?

### Corporate assessment reports

To view the Council's corporate assessment report, please visit the Audit Commission website ([www.audit-commission.gov.uk](http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk)).

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.