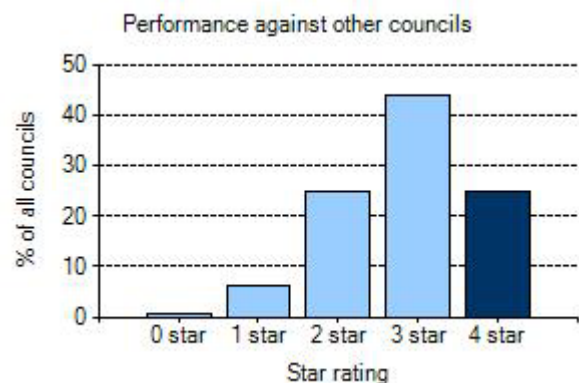
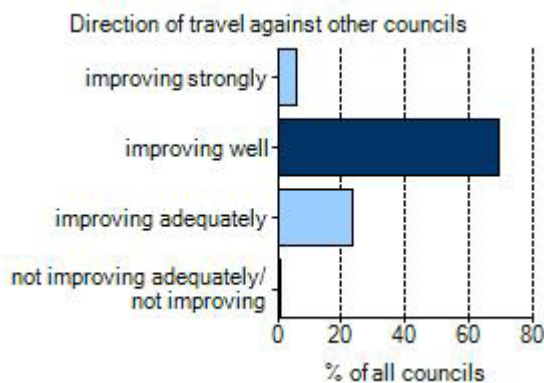


Halton Borough Council 2005 scorecard

Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA)

Overall performance for this council

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



We reached this overall rating by looking at:

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

What progress has Halton Borough Council made in the last year?

Halton Council is delivering improved performance in many of its priority areas. For example, there is less litter, better care and support for vulnerable people and more affordable houses are available. The rate of progress in educational attainment at Key Stages 2, 3 and 4 compares favourably with national averages. However, performance is still considerably below national averages for overall educational attainment by children and the level of formal qualifications achieved by adults. The Council has a good focus on wider community needs, and is working effectively with partners to achieve common goals. This has resulted in greater than average falls in unemployment, reductions in road accidents, rising business activity, jobs, and incomes. It has introduced specific measures to help vulnerable and hard-to-reach groups benefit from the expanding economy and improvements to services. However delivering improvements in health, such as increased life expectancy and fewer deaths from circulatory and respiratory diseases is still a major challenge. Overall, the Council is delivering planned improvements, meeting its targets well and has the ability to continue improving the way it works.

How Halton Borough 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
Benefits – The Council's performance in providing housing and council tax benefit services. The assessment is made by the BFI and is based primarily on achievement against the 2005 Housing benefits/council tax benefits performance standards.	4
Children and young people – 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
Culture – 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
Environment – 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.	4
Housing – The Council's performance, as assessed by the Audit Commission, in providing community housing and, where applicable, housing management services. The assessment is made by combining housing inspection reports with a range of performance indicators.	2
Social care (adults) – 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 Halton Borough Council uses its resources

Halton Borough Council	2005
Use of resources	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 Halton Borough 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 for 2005 is from the 2005 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).

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.