

PR 2010

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COUNCIL GIVEN THUMBS UP BY GOVERNMENT WATCHDOG

North West Leicestershire District Council has welcomed a new report as an endorsement that it is on track to achieve its ambition to become a high performing Council.

An Audit Commission Progress Assessment Report published today (20 December 2005) analyses the Council's progress on its "Journey of Improvement" following 2004's Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) and confirms that the Council is now making progress.

Over the last 12 months, the Council has been working hard to sharpen up its priorities and improve its capacity to deliver improvements. A far-reaching management restructuring is paying dividends in improving internal leadership and building blocks have been put in place to secure consistent service improvements in the future to provide better services for residents.

Councillor Frank Straw, Leader of the Council, said "I'm very pleased to receive this confirmation that our hard work is paying off and that we're moving in the right direction.

"Much of what we've been doing has related to the internal working of the authority so I'm particularly pleased to see the recognition of improvements in the performance of waste recycling, street cleansing, planning which are all services directly impacting on local people.

"Despite this confirmation that our improvement agenda is moving in the right direction, the Council won't be resting on its laurels. Having spent many years targeting the regeneration of the District following the decline of the mining industry – a success story confirmed by the recent Barclays Bank finding that put the District in the Top 50 "real wealthiest" districts of England - I'm determined that we will remain focussed and continue on our "Journey of Improvement" until we reach achieve our ambition of becoming a high performing Council."

Notes for Editors

Key findings in the report are:

There have been significant improvements in the performance of waste recycling, street cleansing and planning.

The Council has made good progress in clarifying what it is trying to achieve. This has happened since the appointment of the new chief executive and the adoption of the Council's CPA improvement plan during 2004.

The Council has done well to keep the pace of the corporate restructuring broadly in accordance with the improvement plan.

The Council has made progress in learning. It is open and honest about where improvement is needed, the scale of the challenge, and what is working and what is not.

Officer and councillor commitment is strong to ensuring improvements in efficiency and quality will result from the restructuring of service teams.

The Commission also recognised that there are still areas to tackle which the Council is now preparing to deal with.

The full 23-page report is available to view on the Council's website at www.nwleics.gov.uk

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