

London councils' star ratings

Council	2005 star rating	2006 star rating	2007 star rating
Barking and Dagenham	2	3	3
Barnet	2	3	4
Bexley	4	4	4
Brent	3	3	3
Bromley	3	4 *	3
Camden	4	4	4
City of London	4	4	4
Croydon	3	3	3
Ealing	3	3	3
Enfield	3	3	3
Greenwich	3	3	3
Hackney	1	2	3
Hammersmith and Fulham	3	3**	4
Haringey	3	3	3
Harrow	2	2	2
Havering	1	3	3
Hillingdon	2	2	2
Hounslow	3	3	3
Islington	3	3	3
Kensington and Chelsea	4	4	4
Lambeth	2	1	3
Lewisham	3	3	4
Merton	2	2	3
Newham	3	3	3
Redbridge	2	3	3
Richmond upon Thames	3	3	3
Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames	3	3	3
Southwark	3	3	3
Sutton	4	4	4
Tower Hamlets	3	3	3
Council	2005 star rating	2006 star rating	2007 star rating

Waltham Forest	1	3	3
Wandsworth	4	4	4
Westminster	4	4	4

* Bromley has changed from a 4 to a 3 star council on 16 October 2007 following a revision from 3 to 2 of its score for Children and young people services, following the publication of the Joint Area Review (JAR).

** Hammersmith and Fulham changed from 3 to 4 star on 10 May 2007 following a revision of its score (an improvement from 1 to 2) for culture services.

17. London councils' direction of travel

Councils	2005 Direction of travel	2006 Direction of travel	2007 Direction of travel
Barking and Dagenham	<i>Improving adequately</i>	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>
Barnet	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>
Bexley	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>
Brent	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>
Bromley	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>
Camden	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving strongly</i>	<i>Improving strongly</i>
City of London	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving strongly</i>	<i>Improving strongly</i>
Croydon	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>
Ealing	<i>Improving adequately</i>	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>
Enfield	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>
Greenwich	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>
Hackney	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving strongly</i>
Hammersmith and Fulham	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>
Haringey	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>
Harrow	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving adequately</i>	<i>Improving adequately</i>
Havering	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>
Councils	2005 Direction of travel	2006 Direction of travel	2007 Direction of travel
Hillingdon	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>
Hounslow	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>
Islington	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>

Kensington and Chelsea	<i>Improving strongly</i>	<i>Improving strongly</i>	<i>Improving strongly</i>
Lambeth	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving strongly</i>
Lewisham	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>
Merton	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>
Newham	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Under review</i>
Redbridge	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>
Richmond upon Thames	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>
Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>
Southwark	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>
Sutton	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving strongly</i>
Tower Hamlets	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving strongly</i>	<i>Improving strongly</i>
Waltham Forest	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving well</i>
Wandsworth	<i>Improving well</i>	<i>Improving strongly</i>	<i>Improving strongly</i>
Westminster	<i>Improving strongly</i>	<i>Improving strongly</i>	<i>Improving strongly</i>

NOTES:

1. *CPA pulls together the results of a range of different assessments carried out by the Audit Commission and other inspectorates (Ofsted, Commission for Social Care Inspection and Benefit Fraud Inspectorate) to provide a picture of how well an individual council is performing*
2. *Top performing councils: the number of 4 star councils that are also 'improving strongly' has increased from 10 to 13. Eight councils were top performers in both of these categories in 2006 and 2007: Camden, City of London, Kensington & Chelsea, Kent, Shropshire, Tameside, Wandsworth, Westminster. Five councils were top performers in both categories in 2007, but not in 2006: Bracknell Forest, Gateshead, Leicestershire, Somerset and Sutton.*
3. *This year's results allow comparisons between 2005, 2006 and 2007*
4. *The Isles of Scilly will be exempt from a star rating in 2007. The Audit Commission has agreed this with Communities and Local Government based on the applicability of the methodology to the island's circumstances. We will be publishing a use of resources assessment, and a direction of travel*

judgement. As a result, in the case of star ratings and service assessment scores for environment and culture, CPA results for 2007 total 149 councils.

5. *Under CPA – The Harder Test, introduced in 2005, councils receive an overall performance category ranging from 0 to 4 star, with 4 star being the highest. The system also assesses the direction of each council's overall improvement using the following direction of travel labels: improving strongly; improving well; improving adequately; and not improving adequately (or not improving).*

6. *Some councils' results, including **Newham**, are still subject to review, and will be published when the reviews have been concluded.*

7. *The Audit Commission's report, CPA – The Harder Test: Scores and Analysis of Performance in Single Tier and County Councils 2007, includes the results of each of the county, metropolitan, unitary and London councils in England.*

8. *The Audit Commission compiles CPA in partnership with local government, appointed auditors, the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills, the Commission for Social Care Inspection, and the Benefit Fraud Inspectorate.*

9. *CPA gives an overall council rating by looking at a council's:*

- a. use of resources;*
- b. work with children and young people;*
- c. adult social care arrangements;*
- d. payment and collection of benefits;*
- e. cultural services;*
- f. environment services;*
- g. housing services; and*
- h. corporate capacity to improve services.*

10. *CPA provides a simple report in a straightforward way about how well each council is performing. It encourages councils to focus on continuous improvement and provides a robust independent challenge to stimulate positive change. Ultimately it is about working to improve the quality of services councils provide to local people.*

11. *This is the penultimate year of CPA – The Harder Test. During 2009, Comprehensive Area Assessment will take over from CPA, after the last set of CPA results are announced in February 2009. Delivering a joined up approach to assessing public services, it aims to ensure that local councils, primary care trusts and other health organisations, police, fire and rescue authorities, housing associations, schools and other partners are working together to tackle the challenges facing their communities.*

The Audit Commission and its partner inspectorates are currently consulting on the main elements of the new inspection and regulation framework.

12. *From 2009, the Audit Commission and its partner inspectorates will report on progress as part of the new Comprehensive Area Assessment framework. There will be even greater emphasis on working with other agencies and local communities to improve the quality of life in their areas, without letting up on the successful drive to deliver their own services more efficiently and effectively.*

13 *The Audit Commission is an independent body responsible for ensuring that public money is spent economically, efficiently and effectively, to achieve high-quality local services for the public. Our remit covers around 11,000 bodies in England, which between them spend more than £180 billion of public money each year. Our work covers local government, health, housing, community safety and fire and rescue services.*