

Scrutiny Committee – 5<sup>th</sup> January 2010

## 9. Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)

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### Purpose of Report

To ensure all members of the Scrutiny Committee have access to the full report from the Audit Commission in respect of the organisational assessment for South Somerset District Council under the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) regime.

### Action Required

That Scrutiny Committee note the report and pass any comments they have to the District Executive to be considered at its next meeting.

### Background

The previous inspection regime, the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA), concluded in March 2009. Since April 2009 all public authorities have been subject to a joint inspection of what life is like for residents of any given area of the country. This area assessment is not scored. The area is either that covered by the boundary of a unitary council or, in the case of a two-tier area, the county area. The results of this inspection is in the form of a narrative and can only be viewed on the One Place website.

In addition to this, each public sector organisation in these areas has its own scored assessment of how well (or otherwise) it's performing. Attached to this report is the full assessment of this council. In addition there is a summary version.

In terms of context, members will want to know that South Somerset District Council were the highest scoring district in the entire South West region. Indeed the council was one of only five councils that scored '3' in each of the 5 scored areas. The others were Dorset, Somerset and Devon counties plus South Gloucestershire unitary.

This is a tremendous achievement for the council. In 5 years we have gone from being assessed as average (the only reasonable conclusion of a 'Fair' assessment in 2004) to best district in the South West bar none.

However it is clear that Somerset as a whole has huge variations of performance in that while Somerset County Council and South Somerset District Council are very strong performers, two of the worst performers nationally are also within this county.

### Financial Implications

There are no financial implications in receiving this report.

### Background papers

SSDC's CAA Organisational Assessment