



# Parks - Preparing for Change

London Parks and Green Spaces Forum  
London Cultural Improvement Group  
London Parks Benchmarking Group

4th December 2009





# Audit Commission

- Independent Audit/Improvement Body
- Efficiency and effectiveness in public services (11,000 public bodies and £200 billion spend)
- Audit/Governance/Outcomes
- National Studies and Analysis
- Improvement and Development



## Comprehensive Area Assessment – what will it do?

**CAA** is about places and people.

**CAA** will give people a snapshot of life in their local area each year.

**CAA** will help local services improve quality of life in their area.

**CAA** will provide an independent view of whether people are getting value for money from their local services.



## Why CAA?

- Reflect the new central/local relationship (LAAs, National Indicator Set etc.) and emphasis on localities
- Reinforce local partners' accountability for contributing to improved outcomes
- Build on better performance of local government and increasing capacity for sector self-improvement
- Address the apparent gap between assessed performance and citizen perceptions
- Less inspection, used more intelligently

**Joined-up assessment for joined-up local services.**



# Key differences from existing assessments

- “How well are people served by their local public services?”, not just “How good is the organisation”
- Focus on outcomes, not just on organisations
- More attention to local priorities, not one-size fits all
- Forward looking assessment, not just past performance
- More self-driven improvement; less compliance-focused and rule-driven
- More reliance on self-evaluation and sector self-support
- Not an inspection ‘event’ but dialogue
- Better co-ordinated, risk-based inspection



<b>CPA</b>	<b>CAA</b>
Local government focus	Covers all sectors
Institution based	Area based
Current performance	Risks to outcomes
More backward looking	More forward looking
Collaboration between regulators	Joint assessment by regulators
Cyclical inspection	Continuous assessment
One size fits all	Risk based, proportionate



## Focus on your area

- Key role of Local Strategic Partnership
- Effectiveness of partnership working
- Your priorities as set out in:
  - Community Plan/Sustainable Community Strategy
  - Local Area Agreement
- Involving public, private and voluntary sectors
- Background context of national indicator set (NIS)
- Focus on response to recession



## Area assessment – three key questions

- How well do local priorities express community needs and aspirations?
- How well are the outcomes and improvements needed being delivered?
- What are the prospects for future improvement?

*Focus on priority outcomes from LAA and sustainable community strategies, as well as vulnerable groups*



## Outcome focus (depending on local priorities)

- How safe is this area?
- How healthy and well supported are people?
- How well kept is the area?
- How environmentally sustainable is the area?
- How strong is the local economy?
- How strong and cohesive are local communities?
- How well is inequality being addressed?
- How well is housing need met?
- How well are families supported?
- How good is the well-being of children and young people?



## Underpinning Themes

- Citizen and user engagement and empowerment
- Vulnerable people, Inequalities and diversity
- Sustainability
- Value for money and efficiency
- Focus on the partnership response to the economic downturn in the first year of CAA



## Area assessment

- There will not be an overall score
- A 'red flag' will indicate significant concerns about outcomes, performance or future prospects that are not being adequately addressed. Further or different action is needed to secure sustained improvement
- A 'green flag' will indicate innovative or exceptional success that other may learn from
- 'Red flags' will be able to be formally challenged but the absence of 'green flags' will not
- Where possible we will link area assessment 'flags' to individual organisational assessments



# CAA Update

- CAA has 4 elements:-
- Use of Resources (scored 1 – 4)
- Area Assessment (Red & Green Flags)
- Managing Performance (Scored 1 – 4)
- Overall Organisational Assessment (Scored 1- 4)



# Reporting CAA

- Annual reporting but judgments may be updated more frequently
- Clickable maps, postcode entry
- Will include reporting of National Indicator Set, allowing tailored comparisons
- **Area assessment:** Evaluative narrative, red flags where action needed to deliver priority improvements, green flags for exceptionally good prospects/promising innovation
- **Organisational assessment for each public body:** links to assessments of Councils, PCTs, Police, Fire, GLA bodies (TFL, LDA)



## So what will inspectorates be looking for?

- great engagement with and knowledge of your communities
- ambitious shared vision for your place
- productive relationships and partnerships across public, private and third sectors
- self-awareness & effective performance management
- innovation and well-managed risk-taking
- and above all - sustainable improvements in citizen satisfaction, priority outcomes and value for money



# CAA Goes 'Live'

- IDeA self assessment guidance – January 2009
- Sustainable Development Commission Local SD Lens – January 2009
- Framework published 10<sup>th</sup> February 2009 – Available on AC website
- UoR Guidance issued February 2009 – Available on AC website
- 'Background Notes' sent to LSPs – March 2009
- CAA Guidance issued 1 April 2009 – Available on AC website
- Official statutory start 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009
- UoR – First 'cut' end of May 2009
- First feedback to LSPs – June/July 2009
- First year CAA reports – December 9th 2009
- Public CAA reports online – new 'One Place' website



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