Local Government Association

CAA – opportunities?
18 February

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Chairman, LGA Improvement Board
and Leicestershire County Council

promoting better local government

CAA: some opportunities

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- Strengthening engagement with local people
- Driving improvement
- Reducing the burden of inspection and assessment

Strengthening engagement with local people: the opportunity

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CAA a stimulus to strengthening

- Our knowledge of our communities and our engagement with them
- How that knowledge is used to inform local priorities
- How communities are involved in assessing whether priorities are met
- A coordinated approach to engagement across local partners
- Strengthening accountability to local people by providing accurate and timely performance information

Engaging local people: the challenge

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- Its complex – avoid a tick box approach
- Don’t challenge political priorities
- Work with councils’ and partners’ own reporting arrangements

Driving Improvement: the opportunity

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- Area Assessment – what are the prospects for future improvement?
- Red flags - setting an agenda for scrutiny
- Green flags – promoting innovation through RIEPs
- Better use of resources across the partnership

Driving Improvement: the challenge

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- Credibility – engaging
  - Councillors
  - shire districts
  - peers
- mechanisms for partner accountability
- “post CAA” improvement planning

Reducing the burden : the opportunity

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- No inspection event
- Rely on published date
- Only ask for additional data where it is needed
- Triggered inspection
- Proportionate
- In future will inform the LAA refresh – no separate LAA review

Reducing the burden: the challenge

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- Use of resources
- Not clear how proportionality will be achieved
- Other inspection regimes
- Mixed messages from other Inspectorates

Seizing the opportunity to set the agenda

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- Take the initiative
- Undertake a locality self evaluation
- Drive the culture change locally
- Tell us how its going – so we can influence how CAA evolves