



Audit Committee – 4 December 2006

ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER – Progress Report

Portfolio: All

Service Area: Corporate perspective covering all service areas.

Wards: All

Summary of report

The annual audit letter from the Audit Commission was presented to this committee on 27 February 2006. A progress report was presented to this committee on the 4 September 2006. This report provides a further update against the issues raised in the audit letter and uses the 'traffic light' system to categorise performance.

Recommendations

- (1) That the committee note the progress to date against the actions identified in the annual audit letter 2004/2005.
- (2) In view of progress made against items 1-3, no further reports will be presented to audit committee.
- (3) Item 4 Surestart grant progress to be monitored as part of the ongoing work of the audit committee.

Resource and legal considerations

The responsibilities of Audit Commission inspectors are detailed in section 10 of the Local Government Act, 1999. Auditor's responsibilities are summarised in the Audit Commission's statement of key responsibilities of auditors; paragraph 33 states that the audit letter should be distributed to members and this was affected electronically.

Citizen impact

The audit letter was addressed to members and officers for the sole use of the audited body. However, on being reported to this committee it became a public document and thereby provided a useful independent summary of key issues and performance of the

council. This shows the progress made which is of interest to citizens and other stakeholders.

Environmental impact

None directly relating to this report.

Performance and risk management issues

The audit letter provided an independent summary of the council's performance by the Audit Commission. It outlined the key issues for the council and is a helpful way of objectively assessing (along with other material) how the council is progressing. The audit committee's remit includes receipt of the audit letter and responsibility for reviewing progress against any key actions arising from it.

Equality implications

None directly relating to this report.

Consultation

The draft audit letter is routinely discussed with the executive management team, directorate teams and heads of service.

Background papers

Annual Audit and Inspection letter 2004/5
Audit Commission Reports as listed on page 28 Annual Audit and Inspection letter 2004/5.



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