
HIGH- LEVEL REVIEW OF THE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT (LAA)

Purpose of Report

1. To present the external audit report on the LAA.

Information and Analysis

2. Attached is a copy of the report produced by PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PwC) following a preliminary review of the management arrangements implemented by the Council as the accountable body for the Darlington LAA. The aim of the review was to identify potential audit risks to target in future years. The review was based upon an audit tool developed by the Audit Commission that focused upon the three areas of governance, financial management and performance management.
3. Representatives from PwC will attend the meeting to present the report.
4. The outcome from the review is extremely positive. The report concluded that overall adequate arrangements are in place in relation to the management of the LAA. No areas were identified for detailed audit follow-up and no recommendations were made for improvements to existing arrangements.

Legal Implications

5. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

6. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Recommendation

7. It is recommended that the report and assessment be noted.

**Paul Wildsmith
Director of Corporate Services**

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of the report.

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