
GRANTS AND RETURNS 2006/07 – EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

Purpose of Report

1. To present the external audit summary report on the results of their grants testing

Information and Analysis

2. Attached is a copy of the report produced by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) that summarises the high level results of their grants testing.
3. Representatives from PwC will attend the meeting to present the report.
4. The external audit work carried out identified that a number of grant claims and returns submitted by the Council during the year were either qualified or required amendment or were submitted after the due date.
5. Although there are still a number of qualifications and amendments, it is a marked improvement on the previous year and procedures have been put in place to ensure that the Council continues to build on the improvements. Paragraph 7 of the attached report summarises the results of PwC's grant claims certification and further detail is provided in Annex A and Appendix A. The reasons for qualification and amendment are minor. Two claims were submitted for audit after the due date, although one was by only 4 days. In the context of total claims of over £70 million, relating to complex grant conditions and regulations, it is extremely unlikely that errors can be completely eliminated. The officers have nevertheless, undertaken to strive to continue to improve the grant management process.

Outcome of Consultation

6. The content of this report was not subject to consultation.

Legal Implications

7. 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

8. 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

9. It is recommended that the report be noted.

Paul Wildsmith
Director of Corporate Services

Background Papers

External Audit Report on 2006/07 Grants and Returns

Peter Carrick: Extension 2326