
ANNUAL AUDIT INSPECTION LETTER 2005

**Responsible Cabinet Member(s) - Councillor John Williams,
Leader and all Cabinet Members**

Responsible Director(s) - Ada Burns, Chief Executive

Purpose of Report

1. To present the 2005 Audit and Inspection letter.

Information and Analysis

2. The attached letter (**Appendix 1**) will be jointly presented at the meeting by Paul Harrison of Pricewaterhouse Coopers, the Council's Audit Manager, and Sarah Diggle the Council's Relationship Manager from the Audit Commission.
3. The letter reviews the Council's overall performance and its arrangements for financial control and Corporate Governance. The attached letter identifies :-
 - (a) The Council has achieved the highest accreditation possible under the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) with a four star rating.
 - (b) The Council is assessed as 'improving well'.
 - (c) Financial Control and Corporate Governance are soundly based and meet relevant guidance.
 - (d) The Council is assessed as three star for the new Value for Money rating. Members should be aware that this represents an excellent result with only three Local Authorities achieving a four star rating.
 - (e) There are areas of improvement to be addressed. The Council is already dealing with these areas.
4. Overall the letter is extremely positive about the Council however, as Members will be aware, the Council has ambitious plans to make further significant improvements.

Outcome of Consultation

5. No consultation was undertaken on the content of this report.

Legal Implications

6. 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

7. 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.

Council Policy Framework

8. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework

Decision Deadline

9. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent matter

Key Decisions

10. The content of this report does not represent a key decision.

Recommendation

11. It is recommended that Cabinet note the Audit and Inspection letter.

Reasons

12. The recommendation is supported to enable the Council to receive the results of its external assessment.

Paul Wildsmith
Director of Corporate Services

Background Papers

2005 Audit and Inspection Letter

Paul Wildsmith : Extension 2302
TAB