

Meeting: **Audit Committee**
Portfolio Area: Performance and Improvement
Date: **16 January 2007**

DATA QUALITY AUDIT REPORT
(Corporate Policy Unit)

NON-KEY DECISION

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1 PURPOSE

To advise members of the Audit Commission feedback on the Data Quality Review (Appendix A).

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Audit Commission feedback on the Data Quality Review be noted.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1. The Audit Commission developed a new approach to the audit of performance indicators for 2005/06. The new approach comprised of three stages:
- 1) Review of overall management arrangements to secure data quality
 - 2) 'Completeness check' of reported performance information
 - 3) Data quality spot checks
- 3.2. Data quality management arrangements were assessed against key lines of enquiry over five themes.
- 3.3. The 'Completeness check' was an arithmetic check of calculations for CPA indicators.
- 3.4. Data quality spot checks were completed against Planning, Decent homes and Temporary Accommodation (B & B).
- 3.5. The outcome of the audit contributes to the auditors' conclusion on arrangements to secure value for money and informs the Use of Resources assessment.

4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION AND OTHER OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Audit Commission report concludes that the Council has robust arrangements in place to secure the quality of data.
- 4.2 The Audit commission identified several items of 'notable practice' when reviewing management arrangements. In particular, the improved performance management and monitoring arrangements over key performance indicators.
- 4.3 The Audit Commission concluded that the indicators checked at stage 2 were arithmetically correct.
- 4.4 Data quality spot checks concluded that all the performance indicators were fairly stated.
- 4.5 As a result of the audit, the Audit Commission identified the Council's strengths, and areas for improvement.
- 4.6 An action plan addressing the recommendations in the feedback report has been prepared (Appendix B).

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications within the recommendations of this report.

5.2 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications to report recommendations.

5.3 Policy Implications

The Data Quality review contributes to the Audit Commission conclusion on arrangements to secure value for money and informs the Use of Resources assessment.

5.4 Information Technology Implications

There are specific actions in the Data Quality Action Plan for delivery by Information Technology.

5.5 Other Corporate Implications

The Data Quality Policy requires explicit referral in the Corporate Business Strategy.

5.6 Other Implications

Delivery of the Data Quality Action Plan will require the commitment of all services.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- Stevenage Borough Council Data Quality Policy

APPENDICES

- Appendix A: Audit Commission Data Quality Feedback
- Appendix B: Data Quality Action Plan