

Meeting: AUDIT COMMITTEE

Agenda Item:

Date: 16 January 2008

3

AUDIT COMMISSION ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORT - UPDATE ON ACTION PLAN

Author - John Dickson Ext No. 2338
Contributors - Milan Joshi Ext No. 2306
Lead Officer - John Dickson Ext No. 2338
Contact Officer - John Dickson Ext No. 2338

1 PURPOSE

To present an update on the Action Plan following the approval of the Audit Commission Annual Governance Report by the Audit Committee on 27 September 2007.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

That progress in implementing the Action Plan be noted.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Audit Commission submitted a report to the last Audit Committee detailing the review of the Council's financial statements and whether proper arrangements had been made by the Council to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The external auditors had raised issues relating to the quality of working papers, capital accounting arrangements together with the completeness and accuracy of the fixed asset register.
- 3.2 Attached is the agreed Action Plan covering all the recommendations included in the September Annual Governance Report. The final column shows progress up to 31 December 2007. Progress is being made in all recommendations although there are some system difficulties with Recommendation R6 covering the reconciliations with housing benefit grant claim. However, it is anticipated that these queries will be resolved by the end of February 2008.
- 3.3 It is intended to submit a comprehensive report on progressing the Action Plan to the March Audit Committee.

4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTIONS AND OTHER

OPTIONS

The Audit Commission's Annual Governance Report is a statutory document and the Council has an obligation to consider and subsequently implement the agreed recommendations included in the report.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications

This report and attached Action Plan are financial in nature and the implications are contained therein.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Audit Commission Annual Governance Report September 2007

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Action Plan