

**Meeting: AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Agenda Item:

**Date: 17 March 2008**

**4**

## **DATA QUALITY AUDIT REPORT 2006/07**

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### **1 PURPOSE**

To advise Members of the Audit Commission's report on the Council's 2006/07 Data Quality Review, as appended to this report.

### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Members note the Audit Commission report on the Council's Data Quality for 2006/07.
- 2.2 That Members of the Audit Committee monitor progress of the Data Quality Action Plan at six monthly intervals.

### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Audit Commission developed a new approach to the audit of performance indicators from 2005/06. The approach was revised slightly in 2006/07 and comprises three stages:
  1. A review of overall management arrangements to secure data quality
  2. An analytical review of BVPI and non-BVPI data
  3. Spot checks of particular BVPIs for data quality.
- 3.2 Data quality management arrangements were assessed against key lines of enquiry over five themes:
  - Governance and leadership
  - Policies

- Systems and processes
- People and skills
- Data use and reporting.

- 3.3 The analytical review of data assesses whether performance results are within expected ranges.
- 3.4 Data quality spot checks were completed for the indicators relating to Decent Homes, and composted waste to determine whether arrangements to secure data quality are delivering in practice.
- 3.5 The outcome of the audit contributes to the auditor's conclusion on arrangements to secure value for money and informs the Use of Resources assessment.

## **4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTIONS AND OTHER OPTIONS**

- 4.1 The Audit Commission report concludes that the Council's overall management arrangements for securing data quality are performing well.
- 4.2 The analytical review identified that performance results fell within expected ranges.
- 4.3 Data quality spot checks concluded that the performance indicators were fairly stated.
- 4.4 As a result of the audit, the Audit Commission identified the Council's strengths, and areas for improvement.
- 4.5 An action plan addressing the recommendations in the report has been agreed with the Audit Commission and is included in the report at Appendix A.
- 4.6 Officers will monitor the Data Quality Action Plan on a monthly basis and report progress to Members of the Audit Committee on a six monthly basis.

## **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 the 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 Other Corporate Implications**

Arrangements to secure data quality require explicit referral in the Council's Corporate Plan.

#### **5.5 Other Implications**

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

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Stevenage Borough Council Data Quality Policy.

### **APPENDICES**

- Appendix A: Audit Commission Data Quality Report 2006/07 (attached)