

**Meeting: AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Agenda Item:

**Date: 22 September 2009**

**5**

## **DATA QUALITY ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT**

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### **1 PURPOSE**

To advise Members of progress made against the actions set out in the Council's Data Quality Action Plan 2009/10.

### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

That Members note the progress made against the actions set out in the Council's Data Quality Action Plan 2009/10 (Appendix A).

### **3 BACKGROUND**

3.1 The Audit Commission developed an approach to the audit of performance indicators from 2005/06 that increased focus on data quality. The approach was revised slightly in 2006/07 and comprised three stages:

1. A review of overall management arrangements to secure data quality
2. An analytical review of performance data
3. Spot checks of particular performance measures to assess data quality.

3.2 Between July and October 2008, data quality management arrangements for 2007/08 performance data 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 Audit Commission report received in April 2009, concluded that the Council's

overall management arrangements for securing data quality are, "consistently above minimum requirements and have been further embedded compared to the previous year".

- 3.4 The analytical review of performance data assessed 2007/08 results as within expected ranges.
- 3.5 Data quality spot checks concluded that performance results were fairly stated.
- 3.6 As a result of the audit, the Audit Commission identified the Council's strengths and areas for improvement.
- 3.7 The Council's Data Quality Action Plan 2009/10 was agreed with Members of this Committee on 8 June 2009.

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

- 4.1 At the Audit Committee meeting on 17 March 2008, officers agreed to monitor progress made against actions identified in the plan on a monthly basis and report progress to the Committee on a six monthly basis.
- 4.2 The Council's Data Quality Action Plan for 2009/10 at Appendix A includes:
  - Actions identified for 2009/10
  - Priority status
  - A reference to the appropriate data quality objective for the Council
  - Milestone for completion and progress to beginning of September.

## **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 Audit Commission assessment of data quality contributes to their conclusion on the Council's arrangements to secure value for money and informs the Use of Resources element of the Council's Organisational 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 requires commitment from all services.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Stevenage Borough Council Data Quality Policy
- Audit Commission Data Quality Report - April 2009

### **APPENDICES**

- Appendix A: Data Quality Action Plan 2009/10 (attached)