

Scrutiny Committee – 8th April 2008

8. Annual Audit and Inspection Letter 2007/08

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Tim Carroll, Leader of the Council
Corporate Director: Philip Dolan, Chief Executive
Lead Officer: As above
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Purpose of the Report

This report introduces the annual audit and inspection letter for 2007/08.

Action Required

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- (1) Note the contents of the Audit Letter and consider the Executive's response to the areas for improvement as set out in the report. There will be a presentation by the Audit Committee at the District Executive meeting on 3 April to which all members of the Council have been invited.

Introduction

Each year the Audit Commission is required to make arrangements for the production of an audit and inspection letter for each local authority. This letter covers a range of matters on which a brief commentary on the local authority's performance is required. These letters serve as milestones on an authority's journey of improvement and enable both successes and areas needing improvement to be recognised. The letter also confirms the judgements for the authority's use of resources and data quality.

Presentation of the Report

Arrangements have been made for the Audit Commission's Audit Manager and Relationship Manager to be present at District Executive to both present the key messages and answer any questions that Members may have.

The letter will also be considered by both Scrutiny and Audit Committees.

A copy of the letter has been sent to all members of the Council.

Improving Performance

The Council has an Improvement and Development Plan that sets out specific areas that have been identified as needing further improvement. This can be as a result of customer feedback, service inspections, and the audit and inspection letter itself. As with last year's letter, it is senior management's intention to use the information contained within the annual letter to update the plan ensuring improvements are planned for, resourced and achieved.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications in accepting this report and the associated recommendations.

Background Papers: *None*
