

Scrutiny Committee – 9th April 2009

8. Annual Audit and Inspection Letter 2007/08

<i>Portfolio Holder:</i>	<i>Councillor Tim Carroll, Leader of the Council</i>
<i>Corporate Director:</i>	<i>Philip Dolan, Chief Executive</i>
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Purpose of the Report

This report introduces the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter for the 2007/08 financial year.

Action Required

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

Note the contents of the Audit Letter and consider the Executive's response to the areas for improvement as set out in the report.

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

A presentation by the Audit Commission took place at the District Executive meeting on 2nd April from the Audit Commission's Audit Manager, Terry Bowditch, and Sophie Trim, the Comprehensive Area Assessment Lead Officer. The letter has also been considered by the Audit Committee at their meeting on 26 March. A copy of the letter will also be sent to all members of the Council following the Scrutiny Committee.

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.

Background Papers: None