
EXTERNAL AUDITOR REPORTS AND UPDATES FOR 2010/11

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Recommendations from the Audit Commission, external auditors, and inspectors are monitored by Internal Audit and their review falls within the discretion of this Committee.
- 1.2 This report draws Members' attention to the recommendations arising from the "Annual Governance Report, 2010/11".
- 1.3 This report also draws Members' attention to the recommendations arising from the "Grants Claim Certification Report, 2010/11."

2 The Council's external auditors, PKF, presented these reports to the Audit Committee on 29 September 2011 and 27 March 2012 respectively.

- 2.1 The outstanding recommendations, progress to date and management responses arising from these reports have been included as appendices 1 and 2.

3 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**
 - 1) That the monitoring sheet for the external audit recommendations arising from the Annual Governance Report, 2010/11 be agreed.
 - 2) That the monitoring sheet for the external audit recommendations arising from the Grant Claims Certification Report, 2010/11 be agreed.

Yvonne Woodward

Head of Finance

Background Papers:-

None

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If you would like this report in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 546366.

MONITORING PROGRESS OF RECOMMENDATIONS RAISED IN ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORT – 2010/11

APPENDIX 1

CONCLUSIONS FROM WORK	RECOMMENDATIONS	PRIORITY	MANAGEMENT RESPONSE	KEY OFFICER	TIMING
<p>There were some disclosure errors identified during our audit that would have been avoided had the Council utilised <i>LAAP 88 - Closure of the 2010/11 Accounts and related matters</i>, which is a technical update paper issued by CIPFA to support Councils in preparing their accounts.</p>	<p>2. Review LAAP bulletins and technical updates prior to preparing the financial statements to identify all key changes and technical issues relating implementation of the Code and reflect them within the draft financial statements.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Initial Response Accepted. Time pressures when producing the accounts, with the change to full system based accounts, detailed work on capital accounts and implementation of IFRS, meant that assumptions were made that the Code guidance notes and CIPFA training sessions would be sufficient.</p> <p>Update April 2012 LAAP Bulletin 93, the year-end bulletin, was released the week commencing 26 March 2012.</p> <p>This has been downloaded and reviewed for year-end implications. There is a possibility that additional LAAP bulletins may be released prior to the completion of the Final accounts but there are a number of sources that would alert if this were to happen.</p>	<p>Financial Services Manager</p>	<p>March 2012 Implemented</p>

MONITORING PROGRESS OF RECOMMENDATIONS RAISED IN GRANTS CLAIM CERTIFICATION REPORT – 2010/11

APPENDIX 2

MATTER ARISING	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY	MANAGEMENT RESPONSE	KEY OFFICER	TIMING
Testing identified cases whereby the benefit end date had been incorrectly applied to non-HRA rent rebate claims. In total, 10 cases were found to be incorrect, resulting in Housing Benefit being incorrectly calculated.	3 Remind staff to ensure that the correct benefit end date is applied to non-HRA rent rebate claims.	Medium	Assessors have been reminded of the correct date to end bed and breakfast claims.	Senior Benefits Officer	Done At Date of Report
			We are currently looking at a pro-forma that could be filled by Strategic Housing to introduce standard wording and avoid confusion. Update May 2012 Proforma not proceeded with but a standard wording has been agreed with Strategic Housing that clearly identifies the last night for which rent is payable.	Senior Benefits Officer	April 2012 Completed