

## MONITORING REPORT

### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report draws Members' attention to the latest Audit Commission publications and suggested best practice. The recommendations of the external auditors, including Best Value and Value for Money reports, and the Benefit Fraud Inspectorate have also been included in order that they may be monitored by this committee.

### 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The monitoring of recommendations by the Audit Commission, external auditors, and inspectors is a discretionary issue that is overseen by Internal Audit and Audit Committee.

### 3 NEW AUDIT COMMISSION PUBLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Audit Commission has circulated further publications, which have been summarised for Members in [appendix 1](#). These are:-

*Worth the Risk – improving risk management in local government*  
*Your Business at Risk – an update on IT abuse 2001*  
*Who audits the auditors?*

The recommended best practice has been added to the monitoring sheet in [appendix 2](#).

A series of publications discussing Local Government Modernisation have been placed in the Members' rooms:

*These truths we hold to be self-evident – essential principles to guide political restructuring*  
*Modernisation through the prism – key decisions to implement the choice of new political structure*  
*Through the Looking glass – briefing for councillors*  
*To whom much is given – new ways of working for councillors following political restructuring*  
*May you live in interesting times – the consequences of political restructuring for officers.*

### 4 EXTERNAL AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 The recommendations of the Council's external auditors, Pannell Kerr Foster, have been included in [appendix 3](#) in order that this Committee may monitor progress. This section also includes their recommendations from the Value for Money Indicator reports on

Service and Financial Planning, Recruitment and Training, and Environmental Stewardship.

**5      BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN – EXTERNAL AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 Pannell Kerr Foster's recommendations arising from the Council's Best Value Performance Plan for 2001/02 are shown in [appendix 4](#), together with any progress to date.

**6      BENEFIT FRAUD INSPECTORATE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 The progress made to date on the BFI recommendations appear in [appendix 5](#).

**7      RECOMMENDATION**

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES:**

- (1) That the additional Audit Commission publications be acknowledged and the recommended best practice arising from them be noted.
- (2) That the updated monitoring sheet for the Audit Commission publications be agreed.
- (3) That the monitoring sheet for the external audit recommendations, including the value for money reports, be agreed.
- (4) That the monitoring sheet for the Best Value Performance Plan recommendations be agreed.
- (5) That the monitoring sheet for the BFI recommendations be agreed. (CEX)

Paul Warren

Chief Executive

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**Background Papers:** None

For further information please contact Noreen Bishop on (01702) 546366 ext. 3211