

## **MONITORING REPORT**

### **1        SUMMARY**

- 1.1    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.

### **2        INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1    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.

### **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:-

- *Protecting the Public Purse – ensuring financial probity in local government- 2000 update*
- *Another Step Forward – the Audit Commission's expectations from year two of best value*

The recommended best practice has been added to the monitoring sheet in appendix 2.

### **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, Income and Charging, Recruitment and Training, and Environmental Stewardship.

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

- 5.1    Pannell Kerr Foster's report on the Council's Best Value Performance Plan for 2000/2001 produced a number of recommendations. An update of the progress made to date is included in appendix 4.

**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

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