

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE
MONDAY 29 JANUARY 2007

Audit and Inspection Progress report

OPEN	
COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME	Internal Organisational Theme
CORPORATE PLAN THEME:	Improving Corporacy and Performance
KEY PRIORITY:	Organisational Performance
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor John-Paul Campion
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Corporate Performance Advisor
CONTACT OFFICER:	Peter Jones Ext 2723
APPENDICES	Progress Report

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of progress with addressing recommendations contained within Annual Audit Inspection Letters and Plans.

2. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to DECIDE:

- 2.1 **Progress to date with matters raised in Audit and Inspection Letters and Plans be noted.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In recent years, particularly since the introduction of Comprehensive Performance Assessment in 2002, the approach taken by the Audit Commission and external auditors in reporting findings and recommendations to Councils has changed from the production of a Management Letter, dealing largely with financial matters, to a much broader Audit and Inspection Letter covering all aspects of Council activity.
- 3.2 The Annual Audit and Inspection Letter contains external auditors' and inspectors' findings from their work over the past year, whereas the Annual Audit and Inspection Plan sets out their proposed work programme for the forthcoming year.
- 3.3 Given the increased volume and profile of these documents, it was felt that it would be helpful to produce a summary progress report for this Committee, in accordance with its expanded terms of reference. Future reports can be provided as required by Members.

4. KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The key elements in each document are:
- Key Audit Issues (in Audit and Inspection Plans), and
 - Auditors' Recommendations (in Audit and Inspection Letters).

These are set out in the summary report in the **Appendix** to this paper.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct financial or legal implications arising from this report.

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 External audit and inspection activity has grown in recent years and this summary report gives Members of this Committee an overview of the nature and number of issues raised in their reports. As such, it provides a valuable performance monitoring opportunity which enables Members to ensure that sufficient progress is being made in some of the more significant areas of Council business.

8. CONSULTEES

- 8.1 Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Affairs
8.2 Chief Executive
8.3 Head of Financial services

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 Annual Audit and Inspection Letter (Dec 2004)
9.2 Annual Audit and Inspection Plan (Mar 2005)
9.3 Annual Audit and Inspection Letter (Mar 2006)
9.4 Annual Audit and Inspection Plan (May 2006)