

## **LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT**

### **MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE - 22<sup>nd</sup> SEPTEMBER 2003**

#### **REPORT NO. BFS/52/03 FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

#### **PROGRESS REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF KEY ISSUES WITHIN 2001/2002 AUDIT LETTER**

#### **1. SUMMARY**

This report provides an updated progress report of the implementation of the key recommendations in the 2001/2002 Audit Letter issued by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC, in the role of external auditor) to Brent Council. Members of the Executive had requested this report following an initial report to the Executive meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2003.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 Members are recommended to note progress to date.

#### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 A number of the key issues in the Audit Letter are linked directly to the financial health and standing of the Council.

#### **4. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 A number of recommendations related directly to staffing levels or the requirement of staff to amend working practices.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The Audit Letter is issued pursuant to paragraph 29 of the Audit Code of Practice, which came into effect on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2000, and was made under s4 of the Audit Commission Act 1998. The aim of the Audit Letter is to communicate to the audited body the scope nature and the extent of the audit work carried out, and summarise conclusions and significant issues arising from the work carried out.

#### **6. DETAIL**

6.1 The 2001/2002 Audit Letter was presented to the Executive on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2002. Members agreed to instruct the Chief Executive to ensure the wide availability of the Letter throughout the organisation and that realistic plans and timetables to meet the recommendations be prepared.

- 6.2 The key issues were highlighted in the Executive Summary in the letter. It was agreed that officers would provide an initial progress report (16<sup>th</sup> January 2003) and update this later in the financial year on the actions taken to meet these recommendations. Appendix A summarises the latest position and further action being taken.
- 6.3 The initial report was considered by Scrutiny Committee as part of its then annual work programme.
- 6.4 It is anticipated that the 2002/2003 Audit Letter will be issued in December.

## **7. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

PricewaterhouseCoopers - London Borough of Brent 2001/2002 Audit Letter to Members December 2002.

Progress Report on Key Issues within the 2001/2002 Audit Letter - Report to Executive 16<sup>th</sup> January 2003 and Scrutiny Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2003.

Any person wishing to inspect these documents should contact Committee and Member Services, Room 106, Brent Town Hall, Forty Lane, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 9HD. Tel. 020 8937 1353.

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