

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

Meeting of the Executive - Monday 17th January 2005

Report from the Chief Executive

For Action

Wards affected:
ALL

Report Title: 2003/2004 JOINT AUDIT AND INSPECTION LETTER

Forward Plan ref: BFS/92

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report accompanies the Joint Audit and Inspection Letter for 2003/2004. This is issued by the Audit Commission and PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are recommended to note its contents.
- 2.2 Members are recommended to instruct the Chief Executive to ensure that the Letter is made widely available throughout the organisation, and that realistic plans are presented to the Executive to address areas for improvement highlighted within it.

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 PwC are the appointed auditors of the Council and are required to issue an annual Audit Letter at the completion of the audit. For the first time this is a joint report incorporating the inspection work undertaken by the Audit Commission.
- 3.2 The document constitutes the detail and representatives from PwC and the Audit Commission will be at the meeting. However a report will be brought to a future meeting of this committee after it has been fully considered by the organisation, which will provide detailed proposals and options to address the main recommendations and themes in the report.
- 3.3 The Letter will be sent to all Members of the Council and be made available to residents in each Library and on the internet.

3.4 The Letter comments that the Council's direction of travel is positive overall and this is reflected in the recent move from "fair" to "good" in the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Performance Assessment announced in December.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Audit Letter is intrinsically linked to the financial performance and management of the Council.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Non specific.

6. DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The proposals in the report have been subject to screening and officers believe that there are no specific diversity implications arising from it.

7. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Several of the External Auditor's key issues have specific and obvious implications for individual staff and Members. However, the Letter addresses the overall good health of the Authority and is therefore of great significance to all managers.

8. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

All the background information is contained in the Audit Letter appended to this report.

Any person wishing to discuss this should contact Duncan McLeod, Director of Finance, Brent Financial Services, Brent Town Hall, Forty Lane, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 9HD, Tel. 020 8937 1424.

GARETH DANIEL
Chief Executive