

DUDLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

10th February 2005

JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

AUDIT AND INSPECTION ANNUAL LETTER 2003/04

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To consider the Audit and Inspection Annual Letter from the External Auditors, the Audit Commission.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Audit Commission have produced a joint Audit and Inspection Annual Letter which incorporates their Annual Audit Letter.
- 2.2 The Letter summarises the conclusions and significant issues arising from the 2003/04 audit and inspection programme, and comments on other current issues. It discusses the Council's CPA score, and includes the statutory report on the Best Value Performance Plan for 2003/04.
- 2.3 A representative of the Audit Commission will be in attendance at this meeting to present the Letter and to discuss its contents with members.
- 2.4 The Letter will be published, placed on the Council website, and paper copies made available at a charge of £1.00, as agreed in 2000/01.

3. Proposals

- 3.1 That the Committee note the views of the Auditor, comment on matters in the Audit and Inspection Annual Letter and refer the Letter to the Cabinet.

4. Finance

- 4.1 The report deals with a number of financial affairs of the Council and concludes that the Council continues to demonstrate effective financial management.

5. Law

- 5.1 Legislation appertaining to Local Authority Audit and Accounts is contained in the Local Government Act 1972, part 2 of the Audit Commission Act, 1998, and regulations made thereunder.

6. Equal Opportunities

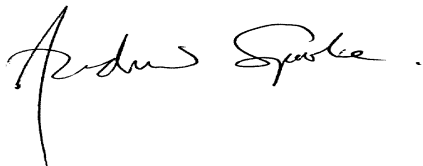
- 6.1 The proposal takes account of the Council's policy in relation to equal opportunities.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 That the proposal set out in paragraph 3.1 be approved.

8. Background Papers

- 8.1 Annual Audit and Inspection Letter.



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CHIEF EXECUTIVE



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for the DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Contact Officer: Richard Clarke (ext. 4839)