

REPORT TO THE CABINET - 16th MARCH 2005

**JOINT REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THE
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

AUDIT AND INSPECTION ANNUAL LETTER 2003/04

1.0 Purpose of the Report

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

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Audit Commission have produced a joint Audit and Inspection Annual Letter (*which is appended*), 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, discusses the Council's CPA score and comments on other current issues.
- 2.3 Copies will also be sent to all other Council members.
- 2.4 A representative of the Audit Commission will be in attendance at this meeting to present the Letter and to discuss its contents with members.
- 2.5 The Letter has been published, placed on the Council website, and paper copies made available at a charge of £1.00, as agreed in 2000/01.

3.0 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.

4.0 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.

5.0 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.

6.0 Equal Opportunities

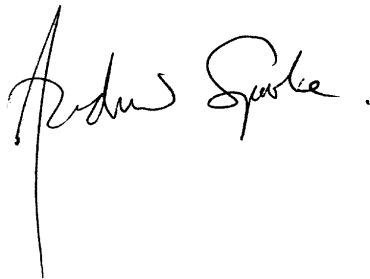
6.1 The proposal takes account of the council's policy in relation to equal opportunities.

7.0 Recommendation

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

8.0 Background

8.1 Annual Audit and Inspection Letter.



.....
A. Sparke
Chief Executive



.....
M. S. Williams
Director of Finance

Contact Officer A. J. Maher
Assistant Director of Finance
Ext 4805