

Building Supplies: A report from the District Auditor

Report of the Assistant Director of Resources (Audit & Risk Management)

Summary

- 1 This paper introduces a report prepared by the District Auditor examining the matter of the Council's procurement arrangements for the provision of building supplies by Neighbourhood Services.

Background

- 2 Some years ago members of the then Resources Scrutiny Committee considered a report from the Assistant Director of Resources on various breaches and waivers of financial regulations. One matter related to the purchase of building supplies by the then Commercial Services Directorate which were not being purchased under contract or in accordance with financial regulations. Members at that time required the relevant officers to take all necessary remedial action. Since then, following the appointment of the new Director, the Directorate has taken the necessary action to put in place an appropriate framework agreement with a suitable supplier. This was done in accordance with the Council's financial regulations and procurement rules.
- 3 The Audit Commission recently conducted a standard regularity audit of the Servitor Building Maintenance System. In doing so some control issues have become apparent further to the operation of the new contract and the District Auditor has chosen to report these matters to governance Members as per the report attached as Annex A, prior to a full review of arrangements by Internal Audit in 2008/09.

Consultation

- 4 The District Auditor has discussed and agreed his report with Neighbourhood Services staff.

Options

- 5 Not relevant for the purpose of the report.

Analysis

- 6 Not relevant for the purpose of the report.

Corporate Objectives

- 7 This report contributes to the overall effectiveness of the Council's management & assurance arrangements.

Implications

- 8 There are no financial, HR, equalities, legal, crime and disorder or IT&T implications arising from this report.

Risk Management Assessment

- 9 The Council will fail to properly comply with legislative and best practice requirements to provide for the proper audit of the authority. Any failure to do so would be unlawful and adversely impact on the Council's CPA score for the Use of Resources (and therefore its overall CPA score in 2008).

Recommendations

- 10 Members are asked to:
- a) consider the matters set out in the District Auditor's report attached here as Annex A;

Reason

To ensure the maintenance of an effective internal control environment at the Council.

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Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

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Report Approved

Yes

Date 29 April 2008

Specialist Implications Officer(s) Not applicable

Wards Affected Not applicable

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers

None

Annexes

Annex A *Purchase of Building Maintenance Supplies (Audit Commission)*