




Haringey Council

Agenda Item

Audit Committee

On 3rd February 2009

Report title: Grants Report 2007/08	
Report of: Chief Financial Officer	
Ward(s) affected: All	Report for: Information
1. Purpose 1.1 To report to the committee the outcomes of the annual grant work by Grant Thornton and to get approval for the action plan resulting from the report of the auditors.	
2. Recommendations 2.1 That the Committee agrees the management responses contained in the action plan.	
Report authorised by: Gerald Almeroth – Chief Financial Officer 	
Contact officer: Graham Oliver – Head of Finance – Accounting and Control Telephone 020 8489 3725	

3. Executive Summary

3.1 The attached report from Grant Thornton details the Council's performance in relation to Grant Thornton's certification of external grant claims for the financial year 2007/08. The accompanying action plan from the auditors contains the Council's response and deadline dates for action.

4. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)

4.1 None.

5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

None

6. Background

6.1 Each year the Council is required to obtain certification of a number of its external grant claims by the council's external auditors Grant Thornton. The attached report from Grant Thornton details their findings from these certifications and provides details of the Council's overall performance in relation to grant claims.

6.2 As can be seen from section 3.2 of the Grant Thornton report the Council's performance in relation to grants has improved in 2007/08, when compared to 2006/07, in all areas that are measured. In addition the table in section 3.3 details how the level of fees charged for this work has reduced when compared with 2006/07.

6.3 However there are still areas where further improvements are required, particularly in the areas of qualifications and amendments to claims, and the action plan is intended to bring about the required improvements.

7. Action Plan arising from Grants Report 2007/08

7.1 The action plan contained within the auditors' report has the Council's responses included, along with key actions, responsibilities and target dates. The action plan will be monitored over the coming months in conjunction with the auditors.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. However if improvements to the grants processes and certification continue to occur there is scope for further savings to be made on the fees charged to the Council for this work.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 That the Committee agrees the management responses contained in the action plan.

10. Head of Legal Services comments

- 10.1 There are no specific legal implications.