



Haringey Council

Agenda Item

Audit Committee

On 25 March 2010

Report title: **Review of Leasehold Service Charges**

Report of: **Chief Financial Officer**

Ward(s) affected: All

Report for: Non-Decision

1. Purpose

1.1 To inform the committee of the outcomes of a Grant Thornton review of leasehold service charges.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That the Committee considers the report on leasehold service charges from Grant Thornton and notes that the Council's response in the form of an agreed action plan will be brought to the next Audit Committee.

Report authorised by: Gerald Almeroth – Chief Financial Officer

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3. Executive Summary

3.1 The attached report from Grant Thornton sets out their findings following a review of leasehold service charges within Haringey. A number of recommendations are made and are contained within section 5 of the auditors report.

3.2 A full management response and action plan to these recommendations will be brought to the next meeting of the Audit Committee.

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 A review has been carried out by Grant Thornton into the leasehold service charges made on Right to Buy properties and a final report from the auditors is attached.

7. Findings

7.1 Section 4 of the report sets out the findings of the auditors following their review and conclusions and recommendations are contained within section 5.

7.2 In compiling the final report Grant Thornton have discussed their findings with the Director of Urban Environment and Homes for Haringey and taken on board comments made. The Council accepts the report and is in the process of pulling together an action plan to address the recommendations highlighted. This action plan will be brought to the next meeting of this Committee for final approval and subsequent monitoring of implementation.

7.3 Members are asked to consider the findings of the report and make comments before the compilation of the improvement action plan.

8. Recommendation

8.1 That the Committee considers the report on leasehold service charges from Grant Thornton and notes that the Council's response in the form of an agreed action plan will be brought to the next Audit Committee.