

Audit Committee **On 24th June 2010**

Report Title. Review of Leasehold Service Charges	
Report of: Assistant Director for Strategic and Community Housing Services <i>M/W 15/6/2010</i>	
Wards(s) affected: All	Report for: Non- Decision
<p>1. Purpose</p> <p>1.1 To inform the Committee of the outcomes of a Grant Thornton review of leasehold service charges administered on the Council's behalf by Homes for Haringey.</p>	
<p>2. Recommendation</p> <p>2.1 That the Committee considers the report on leasehold service charges from Grant Thornton and notes the Council's response in the form of an agreed action plan.</p>	
Report authorised by: Phil Harris – Assistant Director for Strategic and Community Housing Services	
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<p>3. Executive Summary</p> <p>3.1 The attached report from Grant Thornton sets out their findings following a review of leasehold service charges within Haringey.</p>	

3.2 The conclusions are contained within Section 5 of the auditors report and a number of recommendations are made in the action plan in Section 6. Recommendations are made to address issues identified in the following areas:

- Core Systems and Data Quality
- Procurement, Costs and Quality of Services
- Cost Allocation Leaseholder information

3.2 A full management response is contained within the agreed action plan.

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 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 The report sets out the findings of the auditors following their review and conclusions and recommendations are contained within Sections 5 and 6.

7.2 In compiling the final report Grant Thornton have discussed their findings with Strategic and Community Housing Services and Homes for Haringey and taken on board comments made. The Council has considered the report and has assisted in the process of pulling together an action plan to address the recommendations highlighted. The action plan at in the report contains the management responses to the auditors' ten recommendations and the implementation details. This action plan will be brought back to the Committee for subsequent monitoring of implementation.

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

8 Recommendation

- 8.1 That the Committee considers the report on leasehold service charges from Grant Thornton and notes the Council's response in the form of an agreed action plan. This action plan will be brought to subsequent meetings of the Audit Committee for monitoring of implementation.**