



**Haringey** Council

Agenda item:

**[No.]**

Audit Committee

On 24<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Report Title: Grant Thornton – Review of partnership working in Haringey

Report of: Assistant Chief Executive, Policy, Performance and Communications

Signed :

Contact Officer: Wayne Longshaw, 020 8489 2683

Wards(s) affected: All

Report for: Non-Key decision

**1. Purpose of the report**

1.1. To present the findings of a review of partnership working undertaken by Grant Thornton.

**2. State link(s) with Council Plan Priorities and actions and /or other Strategies:**

2.1. The report directly links to the Sustainable Community Strategy as the overarching strategy for Haringey Strategic Partnership. The recommendations in the report will help to strengthen partnership working and thus delivery of priority outcomes and the Local Area Agreement.

**3. Recommendations**

3.1. That the audit committee note the report and the twelve management actions contained in the action plan.

**4. Reason for recommendation(s)**

4.1. Grant Thornton undertook an audit of partnership working and has identified areas that will help strengthen partnership working. These are summarised in the action plan at the back of the report.

## **5. Summary**

5.1. Grant Thornton have undertaken an audit which looked at the relationship between the Council, the PCT and other local strategic partners and focussed specifically on the equality of partnership working and shared governance arrangements. The audit was carried out between November 2009 and February 2010.

5.2. The audit included a detailed focus, known as a “tracer”, on a specific area. The aim being to establish whether partnership working practice in this area reflects wider arrangements and best practice across the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

## **6. Background**

6.1. The Audit of partnership working was undertaken in response to a national study and toolkit for local strategic partnerships (LSPs) recently published by the Audit Commission, Working Better Together. The study concluded that most LSPs are evolving and maturing, but that there is a wide variation in the quality of partnerships, and their ability to deliver intended outcomes. The review makes use of the methodology set out in this study.

6.2. In undertaking this audit, Grant Thornton is seeking to achieve the following:

- to assess whether partners are working together effectively to maximise value from combined resources;
- to stimulate improvements to partnership working practice within client organisations; and
- to provide supporting evidence for the 2009/10 Comprehensive Area Assessment process, including UoR conclusion.

6.3 Effective partnership working was a theme throughout the CAA framework, and as such the review would have provided supporting evidence for the 2009/10 CAA process, including the UoR for both the Council and the PCT. Since the publication of the report the CAA framework and the UoR component has now been abolished.

## **7. Council Response**

7.1. The Council and partners had undertaken its own review of the HSP working arrangements and has co-ordinated its approach with Grant Thornton. Many of the recommendations in the action plan area are already being taken forward. The Council and partners will work towards completing the actions through 2010/11.

**8. Chief Financial Officer Comments**

8.1. The review was jointly funded and is contained within the 2009/10 audit plans of the Council and the local Primary Care Trust, Haringey NHS.

8.2. The Chief Financial Officer has been consulted during the preparation of the report and endorses the response made by the Council.

**9. Head of Legal Services Comments**

9.1. There are no specific legal implications in the report.

**10. Use of appendices/Tables and Photographs**

Grant Thornton Partnership Working in Haringey.