

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARINGEY
EXTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT – JANUARY 2012

Work	Progress
Annual Audit Letter 2010/11	Our Annual Audit Letter summarise all of the audit work we undertook during 2010/11. We will present the letter to this meeting of the Corporate Committee.
VFM 2010/11 - Personal Budgets	To inform our 2010/11 Value for Money conclusion we completed a review of the Council's progress with introducing Personal Budgets to adult social care users. We will present our report to this meeting of the Corporate Committee.
Grants claims and returns certification 2010/11	The 2010/11 grants certification process is now complete and we will present our Grants Report to this meeting of the Corporate Committee.
Housing Benefits	We have completed our testing of the 2010/11 Housing and Council Tax Benefit subsidy claim. Although the claim was qualified, it should be noted that the Council's arrangements for preparing the 2010/11 claim improved considerably compared to the prior year. The Council has introduced enhanced quality control procedures within the Benefits and Local Taxation Team, as well as instigating Internal Audit carrying out in-year reviews of benefit assessments. Compared to previous years the level of errors identified had reduced significantly, we were able to complete our work two months earlier than in the prior year and the DWP has accepted that in 2010/11 no subsidy needs to be clawed back. The Council should be commended for the improvements noted. Further details are provided in our 2010/11 Grants Report.
2011/12 Audit Plan	We have agreed our 2011/12 detailed audit plan with officers and will present it to this meeting of the Corporate Committee.
2011/12 Accounts audit	<p>We have commenced our planning for the 2011/12 accounts audit and will be onsite undertaking the interim audit at the end of February.</p> <p>We have agreed an action plan with officers to improve the process based on the experiences of the 2010/11 audit.</p>

National reports	<p>Grant Thornton recently published its national report, 'Surviving the storm: how resilient are local authorities?' Please let us know if you would like to receive a copy. The report was informed by the Financial Resilience VFM reviews that we had undertaken at local authority clients across the country between May and September 2011. The Council's performance was broadly in line with other authorities across the country.</p> <p>Grant Thornton will be publishing a national report on Corporate Governance in local government in March 2012.</p>
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Grant Thornton UK LLP

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