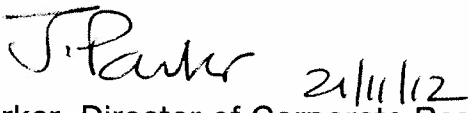


**Haringey** Council

Report for:	Corporate Committee – 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2012	Item Number:	
Title:	Annual Audit Letter 2011/12		
Report Authorised by:	 Julie Parker, Director of Corporate Resources		
Lead Officer:	<b>Kevin Bartle</b> <b>Assistant Director – Finance</b> Tel: 020 8489 5972; Email: kevin.bartle@haringey.gov.uk		
Ward(s) affected: All	Report for Key/Non Key Decisions:  Key Decision		

**1. Describe the issue under consideration**

The Annual Audit Letter is part of the formal process of external audit and provides an independent assessment of the Council's position in terms of progress in meeting its strategic objectives.

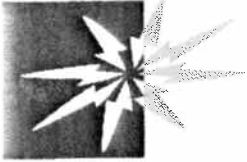
The purpose of this report is to present the Annual Audit Letter for 2011/12 from the Council's external auditors, Grant Thornton, to note the issues raised and actions being taken and to refer on to Cabinet any comments of the Committee.

**2. Cabinet Member Introduction**

Not applicable

**3. Recommendations**

To receive the Annual Audit Letter for 2011/12, to note the issues raised and refer any comments of the Committee to Cabinet.



**Haringey Council**

#### **4. Background information**

The Annual Audit Letter for 2011/12 is compiled by the Council's appointed external auditors Grant Thornton. It summarises the conclusions and any significant issues arising out of the audit work for the Council in the preceding year. It includes information from the audit of the Council's accounts, the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources and the certification of claims and returns.

The Annual Audit Letter for 2011/12 from Grant Thornton is an important external assessment of the Council's overall position; the Letter is attached as an appendix to this report.

The auditors' findings with regard to the audit of the 2011-12 Accounts and their value for money work were included in their ISA 260 report (Annual Report to those Charged with Governance) to this Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2012.

Grant Thornton signed-off the Accounts and Annual Governance Report without qualification on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2012. The Whole of Government Accounts was signed-off the following week in accordance with the prescribed statutory deadlines.

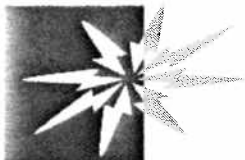
The Annual Audit Letter confirms that the Council's 2011-12 Accounts give a true and fair view of its financial affairs and that the Council has made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The Letter will also be presented to Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2012. This report therefore provides the Committee with an opportunity to pass on to Cabinet any comments it may have on the contents and conclusions in the Letter.

#### **5. Comments of the Chief Finance Officer and Financial Implications**

The resource implications for implementing the actions recommended in the Annual Audit Letter have been considered as part of the overall financial and business planning process and are included within the previously approved budget.

In September the Committee was appraised of some problems encountered during the 2011-12 accounts closing process. As agreed at that meeting a report will be brought to the Committee at its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013 which will set out the findings of a review currently being undertaken in conjunction with Grant Thornton together with a proposed action plan. Work on the report and action plan is already well advanced and is being co-ordinated through a Review Board.

As a result of the additional work undertaken by Grant Thornton the cost of the 2011-12 audit increased by £32k. This cost can be met from the existing budget.



**Haringey Council**

**6. Head of Legal Services and legal implications**

The Head of Legal Services has been consulted on the content of this report and has no specific comment to make.

**7. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments**

Not applicable

**8. Head of Procurement Comments**

Not applicable

**9. Policy Implications**

None

**10. Use of Appendices**

Annual Audit Letter 2011/12 – Grant Thornton

**11. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

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

- Report of the Director of Corporate Resources to the Corporate Committee on 27 September 2012 – Statement of Accounts 2011/12 and Annual Governance Report

