



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

Cabinet

12 February 2001

Finance, Resources and Equal Opportunities Scrutiny Committee

28 February 2001

District Audit Management Letter 1999/2000

Report of the Chief Executive

1. Purpose of Report

To advise members of

- a. The key messages arising from the District Audit Management Letter for 1999/2000, and
- b. The main actions taken or proposed as a result.

2. Summary

- a. The Audit Commission Code of Audit Practice requires the District Auditor, as the Councils appointed external auditor, to prepare an annual management letter, which sets out the findings of the auditor's work. The letter provides a commentary on a number of specific matters.

3. Recommendations

The Cabinet is recommended to note and endorse the actions taken by the Chief Executive as a result of the Management Letter, as set out below and to refer the action plan to Scrutiny Committee to monitor implementation.

4. Key Findings

- a. The District Auditor acknowledges that the Council has performed well in addressing the many challenges facing it over the year, including best value, the preparation of the community plan, difficult financial settlements, changes to the Council's political balance and the follow up OFSTED inspection.
- b. Against these real challenges, the Auditor has identified a number of issues, details of which are contained in the document itself, where he feels that specific action should be considered.
- c. A copy of the Management Letter was sent to all members of the Council on 24 January 2001.

5. Action Plan

As a consequence, following discussion at Director's Board, the following actions have been initiated for report back to Members within 3 months:-

- i. Developing stronger regulations and guidelines relating to the issues of accountable body status, and associated development of greater decentralization and possible moves towards devolution of Council expenditure. The Chief Financial Officer has been asked to progress this issue and to report back to Directors' Board and the Cabinet with his proposals.

- ii. Relaunching the existing project management and partnership guidelines with increased emphasis on training, and on identifying, where necessary, external professional project management support. The Director of Arts and Leisure will coordinate activities.
- iii. Reviewing the Council's prosecution policies and guidelines in the light on new legislation. The Town Clerk will prepare proposals.

6. Financial and legal Implications

- a. None

7. Background papers

- a. Management Letter to Members of Leicester City Council-1999/2000 by District Auditor

8. Report Author/Officer to contact:

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