

DATA QUALITY

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members with the details of the Audit Commission's findings from their work on data quality for 2007/2008.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Audit Commission undertook a data quality review for Wirral Council during 2008.

The following three stage approach was undertaken:-

Stage 1	Management arrangements A review using key lines of enquiry (KLOE) to determine whether proper corporate management arrangements for data quality are in place, and whether these are being applied in practice. The findings contributed to the auditor's conclusion under the Code of Audit Practice on the Council's arrangements to secure value for money (the VFM conclusion)
Stage 2	Analytical review An analytical review of 2007/08 BVPI and non-BVPI data and selection of a sample for testing based on risk assessment
Stage 3	Data Quality spot checks In-depth review of a sample of 2007/08 PIs most of which come from a list of specified BVPIs and non-BVPIs used in CPA, to determine whether arrangements to secure data quality are delivering accurate, timely and accessible information in practice. For 2007/08 PI spot checks, the Audit Commission specified that it is compulsory to review two housing benefit PIs at all single tier and district councils as a minimum. In addition to the specified indicators one non-specified performance indicator, BVPI 8 was selected for review.

2.2 Detailed findings of the review and an action plan which sets out the recommendations can be found in the Audit Commission's report in appendix 1 of this report.

3. Next steps

3.1 A comprehensive action plan will now be developed and implemented which will combine the findings and recommendations from both the Audit Commission and the council's own internal audit recommendations during 2007/08. This action plan will also incorporate any outstanding recommendations from the Audit Commission's review in 2006/07.

3.2 The action plan will be reported to Cabinet for approval with regular reports on progress provided to the Corporate Improvement Group and Audit and Risk Management committee on a quarterly basis.

4. Financial implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5. Staffing implications

5.1 There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

6. Equal Opportunities implications

6.1 There are no equal opportunities implications arising from this report.

7. Community Safety implications

7.1 There are no community safety implications arising from this report.

8. Local Agenda 21

8.1 There are no local agenda 21 implications arising from this report.

9. Planning implications

9.1 There are no planning implications arising from this report.

10. Anti-poverty implications

10.1 There are no anti-poverty implications arising from this report.

11. Social inclusion implications

11.1 There are no social inclusion implications arising from this report.

12. Local Member Support implications

12. There are no local member support implications arising from this report.

13. Background Papers

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

- Wirral Borough Council data quality audit of 2007/08 data
- Internal audit's data quality findings of 2007/08 data
- Wirral Borough Council data quality audit of 2006/07 data

14. Recommendations

14.1 Members note the contents of this report.

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