

## USE OF RESOURCES - RESPONSE TO AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS (JANUARY 2010)

Page No	Recommendation	Priority 1 = Low 2 = Med 3 = High	Responsibility	Agreed	Comments	Date
	<p>Use the principles outlined in the Audit Commission report 'World class financial management' to develop further medium to long term financial planning. This includes assessing how well the recently published medium term financial strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Models different scenarios and outcomes</li> <li>• Integrates with risk management</li> <li>• Delivers a clear 'financial road map' explaining where the Council is, where it wants to go and what resources are needed (or can be redirected) to get there</li> </ul>	3	Borough Treasurer Chief Officer: Financial Services	In part	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council will review 'World class financial management' and adopt those principles that enable it to develop its medium and long term financial planning.</li> <li>• The current medium term financial strategy is integrated with risk management but the links will be developed and improved in the next version.</li> <li>• Discussions will be held with the Executive Member for Finance, Resources &amp; Assets to determine the extent to which the 'financial road map' could be published taking into account the uncertainties around future central government spending decisions.</li> </ul>	May 2010

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	Make more systematic use of costing and whole life costing and feed it into decision making.	2	Chief Officer: Financial Services Head of Procurement	Yes	Guidance will be developed and included in the Procurement Manual and Capital Strategy. Training will be included as part of a revised programme to promote financial literacy (see next recommendation).	May 2010
	Review the current training programme aimed at promoting financial literacy and skills.	2	Chief Officer: Financial Services Chief Officer: Human Resources	Yes	The current arrangements for financial training, including competency frameworks and assessment centres, will be mapped and any gaps or improvements required will be included in a revised programme.	Revised programme: March 2010 Implemented: June 2010

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	Keep a focus on improving procurement practices. Use this to develop strategic procurement.	3	Chief Officer: Financial Services Head of Procurement Borough Solicitor	Yes	Continue to embed the actions arising from the Procurement Regulations Action Plan. To include: a) Keeping Contract Standing Orders and the Procurement Manual under review to ensure they remain current. b) Provision of training, as required. c) Maintaining a contracts database, based on the regular review of expenditure over £35k, and d) Identifying significant procurements in the 2010/11 Service Plans. e) Ensure equality and sustainability issues are embedded into procurement practices.	Ongoing

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	Keep a focus on improving data quality. Ensure staff understand their role in this. Monitor progress in achieving plans to improve corporate and departmental processes.	3	Assistant Chief Executive	Yes	Continue to implement the Data Quality strategy action plan during 2009/11, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The implementation of the PARIS system</li> <li>Development of a data quality framework with partners</li> </ul>	March 2011
	Track progress in developing governance arrangements for partnerships. Introduce arrangements for monitoring their financial performance.	3	Head of Democratic Services  Assistant Chief Executive  Chief Officer: Financial Services	Yes	Continue review of governance arrangements for partnerships. To include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual update of the significant partnership register</li> <li>Support for the significant partnership register self assessment</li> </ul> Develop arrangements for monitoring the financial performance of significant partnerships.	March 2010
	Promote the governance agenda – raise the profile of the Standards Committee, carry out ethics training for officers and update the fraud strategy.	2	Borough Solicitor Head of Audit and Risk Management	Yes	Report to be submitted to Standards Committee on raising its profile. Proposals for officer	

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					training in ethics to be formulated and implemented.	March 2010 September 2010
					Fraud strategy approved by the Executive and Governance and Audit Committee.	March 2010
	The Council should consider the long term implications of its maintenance backlog against its other spending priorities	2	Director of Environment, Culture and Communities  Chief Officer: Property	In part	This recommendation needs to be tempered with financial realism. The following actions will, however, inform the 2011/12 budget process.  Working group established and chaired by the Director of Environment, Culture & Communities to investigate alternative sources of funding relating to sustainability to reduce the maintenance backlog.  Asset Management Group to assess the Council's priorities in relation to suitability and condition	August 2010  March 2010

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					and make recommendations to CMT.	