

# Audit and Corporate Governance Committee Progress Report



Herefordshire Council

Audit 2007/08

Date **January 2009**

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## Progress Report

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### Purpose of this progress report

This progress report provides a short summary for Members' information of Audit Commission work in 2007/08. Detailed reports have already been provided to Officers where indicated. All recommendations in these reports have been accepted by Officers and action plans are being developed to implement them.

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The Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies issued by the Audit Commission explains the respective responsibilities of auditors and of the audited body. Reports prepared by appointed auditors are addressed to non-executive directors/members or officers. They are prepared for the sole use of the audited body. Auditors accept no responsibility to:

- any director/member or officer in their individual capacity; or
- any third party.

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Item no.	Area of Work	Status of Work	Comments
1	Planning (2007/8 and 2008/09)	Complete	Plans agreed by Committee
2	Statement of Accounts (7/8)	Complete	Annual Governance Report presented to Committee in September 08. Unqualified audit opinion given for accounts and use of resources. Quality of accounts, working papers and support to audit were very good and an improvement on last year.
3	Use Of Resources (7/8)	Complete	Performance improved in several areas. Overall score increased to a three and financial reporting theme now an impressive four. Report agreed.
4.	Delivering VFM in Older Peoples Services(7/8)	On-going	Almost completed second of three phases. Have fed back results to Officers of phase 1 work, which showed an improvement made overall and also discussed where some more work was necessary. Formal draft report due April 2009.
5.	Data Quality (7/8)	Complete	Summary paragraph for Annual Audit and Inspection Letter (AAIL) shared with Officers. Overall arrangements still adequate and direction of travel positive in the year. No significant issues on individual PIs tested.
6.	Herefordshire Connects (8/9 plan)	Set up meeting with Deputy Chief	Follow up work from last year's detailed report commencing January 09 and should be reported in AAIL in March.

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		Executive held	
7	Annual Audit and Inspection Letter (7/8)	Not started	Draft likely to be sent to Officers in February 2008
8	Claims(7/8)	On-going	NNDR and Teachers pension claims complete along with number of smaller claims. Housing Benefit claim was certified in November with minor qualification.
9	Development Control (8/9 Plan)	Set up meeting with Director taken place and brief agreed.	Main on-site field work to take place in January and February 2009 with some committee observation/document review before then.
10	Procurement (8/9 Plan)	Draft report issued for discussion.	Involves overview of Council wide processes and also review of Highways procurement. Field work now complete. Draft report issued for comments from Officers
11	Direction of Travel	On-going	Draft words discussed with Officers in mid December.
12	New Use Of Resources(8/9)	On-going	Held a workshop with Officers in December to help prepare for the new assessment.
11	Safer Roads Partnership(SRP)	Complete	The Partnership asked us to carry out an overview of its approach to the issues raised in the AC publication 'Changing lanes'. We are awaiting the joint action plan. We concluded that Partners in the SRP are committed to working together to improve road safety in the

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			<p>area. But the transition from the earlier successful safety camera partnership has been slow and is still incomplete. The Partnership does not use the information available to identify the best approach to improving road safety. The majority of the Partnership's work is enforcement activity although it is increasing its awareness raising work. Police data is used effectively to identify activity but the opportunity to use data held by other partners has not yet been explored. There is some good joint working on individual publicity campaigns and the communication sub-group is looking at ways to expand this activity. The SRP does not currently make use of partners' existing links to engage effectively with the community to both inform its work and communicate its messages. Performance management is limited by the lack of a clear strategy. The Partnership monitors the contribution of safety cameras to road safety targets and assesses the costs of these against the savings from reducing accidents. However it does not assess whether the activity is delivering the best value for money from the resources committed.</p>

