

Report to: Audit Committee

Date: 25th June 2007

Report of: Director of Corporate Resources

Report No:

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Report Title: Annual Audit and Inspection Letter

**Confidential /
Non Confidential:**

(**Non-Confidential**) This report does **not** contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the press or members of the public

Purpose:

To allow Audit Committee to consider the content of the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter

Recommendations:

Audit Committee is asked to consider the Annual Audit Letter and question/comment accordingly.

Background Doc(s):

1. BACKGROUND:

External Audit is an essential element in the process of accountability for public money and makes an important contribution to the stewardship of public resources and the corporate governance of public services. The importance of the work of external audit is recognised in Bolton's assurance framework which identifies it as one of the six key areas of assurance.

The Annual Audit Letter is a summary of the Audit Commission's assessment of the Council and it includes details from inspection undertaken in the last twelve months and a wider analysis of the Council's performance during that period.

2. ANNUAL AUDIT AND INSPECTION LETTER 2005/06:

The 2005/06 letter is attached in full as an appendix to this report. The Letter was considered by the Executive at its meeting in April 2007 and is brought to Audit Committee to allow it to consider the issues raised within the context of the committee's terms of reference.

The letter is in four parts:

- Overall summary
 - Actions needed by the Council
- How is Bolton Council Performing?
 - The improvement since last year – direction of travel report
 - Service inspections
- Financial management and value for money
 - Local studies
- Conclusions

3. RECOMMENDATIONS:

Audit Committee is asked to consider the Annual Audit Letter and question/comment accordingly.