

Report to: **Cabinet**

Date: **15 December 2004**

By: **Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources**

Title of report: **Audit Commission's Audit and Inspection Annual Letter**

Purpose of report: **To submit to Cabinet the Audit Commission's Audit and Inspection Annual Letter**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is recommended to consider and comment on the Audit Commission's draft Audit and Inspection Annual Letter.

1. **Financial Appraisal**

1.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

2. **Supporting Information**

Introduction

2.1 Attached to this report is the Audit Commission's Audit and Inspection Annual Letter, which when finalised, will be distributed to all Members of East Sussex County Council.

2.2 The letter summarises the conclusions and significant issues arising from the Audit Commission's 2003/04 audit and inspection programme. The key messages for the County Council are shown on page 2 of the letter. The Audit Commission's overall conclusion is that "the Council has maintained its focus on improving core services and sustaining or improving its performance in its priority areas" The refreshed CPA scorecard will be published on the Audit Commission's website on 16 December 2004. The Audit Commission also comment positively on the County Council's financial position concluding that "The Council successfully achieved a particularly demanding budget in 2003/04 and has strengthened the overall financial position further. The financial outlook continues to look as challenging as the Council anticipates. Nevertheless its robust financial planning processes mean it is well placed to tackle this".

2.3 The Cabinet is asked to consider and comment on the Audit Commission's Audit and Inspection Annual Letter.

CHERYL MILLER
Chief Executive

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Audit Commission Audit and Inspection Annual Letter
Audit Commission 2003/04 Audit Plan