THE EXECUTIVE

14 SEPTEMBER 2004

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

BENEFIT FRAUD INSPECTORATE (BFI)	FOR INFORMATION

This report advises the Executive of the response from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) to the Council's BFI action plan.

<u>Detail</u>

The Council has been informed by the DWP, via a letter dated 12 August 2004, that they are satisfied with the Council's action plan in response to the recommendations made by the BFI. The DWP are particularly encouraged by the progress made to date with the implementation of the action plan, which was approved by the Executive at the meeting on 15 June 2004, specifically the decision to use the services of the BFI's Performance Improvement Action Team for assistance in several performance areas.

Having regard for the performance indicators they have noted some improvements from a low position.

The DWP will not be making any recommendations to the Secretary of State to issue Directions, they will however monitor our progress.

A copy of the DWP's letter of 12 August 2004 is included in the private and confidential part of this agenda at Item 10.

Recommendation

It is recommended that this report be noted.

Reason

To inform the Executive of the response from the DWP to the BFI Action Plan.

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