

**Report to the Finance and Performance
Management Cabinet Committee**

**Report reference: FPP-032-2008/09
Date of meeting: 16 March 2009**



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Portfolio: Finance and Performance Management

Subject: External Auditor's Reports – Use of Resources and Data Quality

Responsible Officer: Bob Palmer – (01992 – 564279)

Democratic Services Officer: Gary Woodhall - (01992 - 564470)

Decision Required:

To note the reports of the External Auditor

Executive Summary:

The reports of the external auditor (PKF) are formally presented to the Audit and Governance Committee. However, given the importance of these reports it is felt appropriate for the Members of this Committee to be made aware of them. If Members would like to hear the presentation from PKF, or raise any issues with them they should attend the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee on 30 March 2009.

The two reports on the Council's Use of Resources and Data Quality both score the Council as 3 out of 4, or "consistently above minimum requirements – performing well".

Reasons for Proposed Decisions:

To make the Committee aware of the reports presented by PKF.

Other Options for Action:

No action is being proposed, Members are only being asked to note these reports.

Report:

1. The Use of Resources Assessment is completed on an annual basis and last year the Council improved its overall score from 2 to 3 (adequate performance to performing well). Despite the toughening of the scoring criteria, the Council has retained its overall score of 3 for 2007/08.
2. It is a concern that the requirements are again being raised for 2008/09 and it will clearly be even more difficult to achieve a score of 3.
3. The Data Quality Assessment is also performed on an annual basis and the score of 3 this year is an improvement on the 2 achieved last year.

Resource Implications:

No additional resource requirements.

Legal and Governance Implications:

No legal or governance implications.

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications:

None.

Consultation Undertaken:

None.

Background Papers:

None.

Impact Assessments:

No equalities or risk management impacts.