

FINAL ACCOUNTS & AUDIT COMMITTEE
26 September 2005

FINAL ACCOUNTS REPORT – INCLUDING STATUTORY SAS 610

Purpose of the Report

1. Under the Audit Commission Act 1998, the Auditor is required to give an opinion on the Statement of Accounts. In doing so the Auditor must report to “those [Members] charged with governance” under Section 610 of the Statement of Auditing Standards.

Background

2. The Statement of Auditing Standard 610 - Communications of Audit Matters, requires that the Auditors will report to the body charged with corporate governance. It is a report that only comments on errors or misstatements in the accounts and is not designed to provide a balanced view.

Main Considerations for the Committee

3. The Final Accounts Report notes that the Auditor intends to give an unqualified opinion on the accounts. It also notes the good working relationship between the Council’s and Auditor’s staff and areas where scope exists to further improve the process.
4. Appendix 1 to the report contains the SAS610 statements. These itemise changes to the accounts identified by the Auditor and observations on accounting policies.
5. We will be working with the Auditor to establish and implement an action plan to address changes in processes and policies and will bring this plan back to the Committee in December 2005.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

6. None identified.

Risk Assessment

7. An unqualified opinion on the statements and the Auditor’s comments reflect positively.

Financial Implications

8. Despite the changes to the accounts, there is no change to the “bottom line” on the main statements of account.

Reasons for Proposals

9. The proposals in the report arise from the statutory requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003, and the Standards to which the Audit Commission now operate.

Recommendation

10. To note the Auditor’s reports.

MIKE PRINCE
County Treasurer

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Unpublished documents relied upon in the production of this report: NONE