
ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORT AUDIT 2007/08

Executive Summary

The external Auditor has prepared his annual governance report which gives his views on the statement of accounts, our use of resources, performance data quality and the work of our internal audit section.

The Auditor has made some recommendations that have been discussed with officers and a full response to the recommendations will be presented to the next meeting of this committee.

Proposal

The Committee is asked to:

- (i) note the report
- (ii) make any comments and suggestions to the Auditor on the content of the report.

To ask officers to agree responses to the recommendation of his report with the Auditor.

Reasons For Proposals

The proposals in the report arise from the statutory requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003

Sandra Farrington – Chief Financial Officer

FINAL ACCOUNTS & AUDIT COMMITTEE
30 September 2008

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Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the external auditor the opportunity to report on governance arrangements to “those charged with governance” under the Code of Audit Practice for Local Government Bodies (“The Code”).

Background

2. The Auditors report ‘Report to those charged with governance’, a full copy of which is attached to this report, includes his opinion on the accounts together with key messages, audit status and use of resources

Main Considerations for the Committee

3. The Auditors report covers the key areas of Financial Accounts, Systems of internal control, Accounting practices and value for money conclusion
4. The key messages from the Auditor are detailed on page 8 of his report. In summary he has proposed an unqualified opinion on the financial accounts and our arrangements for value for money in 2007/08.
5. There are a number of recommendations contained in ‘Appendix 4, Accounts recommendations’, some of these have already been agreed by officers and some are still under discussion. A full summary of the actions required will be presented to the December meeting of the committee.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

6. None identified.

Risk Assessment

7. If the Final Accounts Committee are not able to respond satisfactorily to the concerns of the external Auditor then he may bring this to the attention of the Audit Commission and the Government.

Financial Implications

8. There are no specific implications arising from this Auditing Standard.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

9. None have been identified as arising directly from this report.

Legal Implications

10. None have been identified as arising directly from this report.

Proposals

11. The Committee is asked to:

- (i) Note the report
- (ii) Make any comments and suggestions to the Auditor on the content of the report.

12. To ask officers to agree responses to the recommendations of his report with the auditor.

Conclusion

13. The report from the external auditor is a positive report that demonstrates continuing effective arrangements for accounting and audit. Whilst there are a number of recommendations that need action, they are all expected to be rapidly resolved.

SANDRA FARRINGTON
Chief Financial Officer

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

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