



PUBLIC SECTOR

## **Wiltshire County Council**

Progress report to the Final  
Accounts & Audit  
Committee

September 2008

AUDIT

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External auditors do not act as a substitute for the audited body's own responsibility for putting in place proper arrangements to ensure that public business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

If you have any concerns or are dissatisfied with any part of KPMG's work, in the first instance you should contact Chris Wilson, who is the engagement partner to the Council, telephone 0118 964 2269 email [christopher.wilson@kpmg.co.uk](mailto:christopher.wilson@kpmg.co.uk) who will try to resolve your complaint. If you are dissatisfied with your response please contact Trevor Rees on 0161 246 4000, email [trevor.rees@kpmg.co.uk](mailto:trevor.rees@kpmg.co.uk) who is the national contact partner for all of KPMG's work with the Audit Commission. After this, if you still dissatisfied with how your complaint has been handled you can access the Audit Commission's complaints procedure. Put your complaint in writing to the Complaints Investigation Officer, Audit Commission, Nicholson House, Lime Kiln Close, Stoke Gifford, Bristol BS34 8SU or by e mail to: [complaints@audit-commission.gov.uk](mailto:complaints@audit-commission.gov.uk). Their telephone number is 044 798 3131, textphone (minicom) 020 7630 0421.

**Summary of progress – 2007/08 audit**

We have now substantially completed our first annual audit following our appointment by the Audit Commission as the Council's external auditor, with final reporting still to be completed in a number of areas. The table below summarises the progress made against each of the key elements.

**Table 1 – Summary of audit progress since last meeting**

Audit area	Commentary	Next steps
<b>Financial statements</b>		
Accounts audit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Interim audit</li> <li>● Final accounts audit</li> </ul>	<p><i>Interim audit</i></p> <p>We completed our interim audit in April 2008 and reported the results in our Interim Audit Report to the June 2008 meeting of the Final Accounts &amp; Audit Committee (FA&amp;AC).</p> <p><i>Final accounts audit</i></p> <p>We commenced our final accounts audit in July 2008, following the adoption by the FA&amp;AC of the draft financial statements at its June meeting. We finished the main audit visit in early August and returned to complete a planned 'follow up' stage in September to see through the outstanding areas of work, agree the adjustments made to the financial statements and report the outcome of our work.</p>	<p>We will present our 'Report to those charged with governance' at the 30 September FA&amp;AC meeting, after which we will issue our audit opinion, VFM conclusion and audit certificate.</p>
<b>Use of resources</b>		
Use of Resources (UoR) scored judgements	<p>We have largely completed our 2008 UoR audit. Our 'Report to those charged with governance' summarises the indicative scores prior to the FA&amp;AC meeting. There are a small number of key lines of enquiry (KLOEs) that are still to be finalised, as these cannot be completed until after the financial statements audit has been completed and reported.</p>	<p>Our scores will be confirmed once we have finalised work on the few remaining KLOEs. The scores will still be indicative at this stage.</p> <p>Following the Audit Commission's national quality control process we will provide a report summarising the results of the audit and confirming the final scores.</p>
Data quality	<p>Our 2008 data quality audit is progressing well. We have completed the first two stages, focusing on the Council's management arrangements for ensuring good data quality (stage 1) and an analytical review of the reported performance indicators (stage 2).</p> <p>We have commenced work on the third stage, where we audit in detail a sample of performance indicators.</p>	<p>We will report the results of this audit following the completion of our sample testing.</p>
Review of Business Continuity	<p>We undertook our review of the Council's business continuity arrangements earlier this year. We presented our summary report to the June 2008 FA&amp;AC meeting.</p>	<p>Complete.</p>
Local Area Agreements	<p>Fieldwork for this review took place over August and September and is largely complete.</p>	<p>We will report our conclusions from this work to the Council.</p>

**Table 1 – Summary of audit progress since last meeting (continued)**

Audit area	Commentary	Next steps
<b>Use of resources</b>		
Equalities & diversity – follow up	<p>Our 2007/08 audit programme included a short follow up review to consider the progress made by the Council against the agreed actions from the initial audit review undertaken by the Audit Commission.</p> <p>We undertook this review in September.</p>	<p>No specific audit report is planned due to the relatively small size of this review. Instead, we will summarise our findings in the next Annual Audit &amp; Inspection Letter.</p>
<b>Certification work</b>		
Grant claims & returns	<p>We have started work on three grant claims and returns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Teachers’ pensions return;</li> <li>● Sure Start; and</li> <li>● Connexions.</li> </ul>	<p>We will certify these claims and returns following completion of our work.</p>

**Summary of progress – 2008/09 audit**

We agreed our audit plan for 2008/09 at the June 2008 meeting of the FA&AC. The major project included in this plan was the review of the Council’s Local Government Reorganisation arrangements and, as part of this, the Business Management Programme.

This review is being undertaken in two phases, the first of which commenced in September 2008.