

REPORT TO THE FINAL ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE		Report No. 10
Date of Meeting	24 November 2008	
Title of Report	Annual Governance Report 2007/08	
Link to Corporate Priorities	All	
Public Report	Yes	

Summary of Report

To present to the Committee the Draft Annual Governance Report for 2007/08.

Officer Recommendations

1. That the Action Plan for the Annual Governance Report for 2007/08 be noted.

Other than those implications agreed with the relevant Officers and referred to below, there are no other implications associated with this report.

Financial Implications	Legal Implications	Community & Environmental Implications	Human Resources Implications	Equality & Diversity Implications
None	None	None	None	None

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Attached is the Draft Annual Governance Report 2007/08 it contains some recommendations which will be taken into account when closing the 2008/09 accounts. Relevant actions pertaining to the 2007/08 have been enacted and agreed with the Audit Commission

2. Options and Options Appraisal

- 2.1 Option 1: To note the Draft Annual Governance Report, Appendix 1. This is the preferred option.
- 2.2 Option 2: To consider making an alternative recommendation

3. Background Information

- 3.1 The principal purposes of the Annual Governance Report are:
- To reach a mutual understanding of the scope of the audit and the respective responsibilities of the auditor and the Audit Committee (i.e. this Committee)
 - To share information to assist both the auditor and those charged with governance to fulfil their respective responsibilities; and
 - To provide the Audit Committee with recommendations for improvement arising from the audit process.
- 3.2 The Annual Governance Report reports specifically on:
- The Council's financial statements; and
 - Whether the Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.
- 3.3 The Annual Governance Report sets out recommendations for improvement. Ordinarily as an ongoing authority these would then be taken into an action plan to improve overall reporting and performance. Whilst we shall endeavour to improve on performance and take into account the ten core recommendations, Wiltshire Council will in fact be responsible for the Closedown for 2008/09. The relevant recommendations will be shared with the Wiltshire Council Finance Department for consideration.
- 3.4 Issues and recommendations identified during the audit of the 2007/08 accounts in respect of presentation etc, will be taken into account during the closedown for 2008/09. There were a number of material changes to the accounts in respect of presentational aspects and changes to the SORP. The District Auditor has issued an unqualified opinion in respect of the annual report and accounts

4. Risk Analysis

- 4.1 The Audit Commission assess risk to the Council in all their work. The main risk to the Council inherent in this report is that the recommendations made are not acted upon in accordance with the action plan and, as a result, the Council is not as effective and efficient as it could be, with this being reflected in future Audit Commission reports.

Appendices:	• Appendix 1. Draft Annual Governance Report 2007/08
Background Documents Used in the Preparation of this Report:	• None

Previous Decisions Connected with this Report

Report	Committee & Date	Minute Reference
Nil		