

Subject: Annual Governance Report
2008-2009

Status: For Publication

Report to: Accounts Committee

Date: 30th September 2009

Report of: District Auditor,
Audit Commission

Portfolio

Holder: Finance and Resources

Key Decision: Yes / ~~No~~

Forward Plan General Exception Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to lay before Members the Annual Governance Report prepared on behalf of the Audit Commission by the District Auditor, and to request Member approval of the annual letter of representation before the Auditor issues his opinion, conclusion and certificate.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities and associated corporate objective.

- Well Managed Council

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- The accuracy and completeness of the accounts are reflective of the level of reliance which Members should be able to place upon financial management and systems of internal control and governance.
- The audit includes an assessment of corporate arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of its resources against 12 criteria specified by the Audit Commission.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 4.1 The District Auditor has completed the audit of the Council's Accounts and its underlying systems, procedures and governance arrangements. The Annual Governance Report, to follow, summarises the findings of the audit.
- 4.2 Within the Annual Governance Report is the draft letter of representation from the Head of Finance as Section 151 Officer, confirming that the information placed before the auditor has been complete, accurate and fit for purpose.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

5. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 5.1 Financial matters are detailed in the Annual Governance Report from the District Auditor, the letter of representation and the amended, audited Statement of Accounts at the next agenda item.

6. MONITORING OFFICER

- 6.1 The Annual Governance Report highlights any key issues which Members should consider before approving the audited Statement of Accounts.

7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

- 7.1 There are no direct Human Resources implications.

8. CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 That the comments of the District Auditor, as presented in the Annual Governance Report, are considered and accepted.
- 8.2 That the letter of representation from the Head of Finance is fit for submission to the District Auditor.

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 9.1 That the comments of the District Auditor, as presented in the Annual Governance Report, are accepted.
- 9.2 That the letter of representation, as presented and discussed, is approved as fit for submission to the District Auditor.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 10.1 Audit Commission

11. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is an Equality Impact Assessment required ~~Yes~~ / No

Is an Equality Impact Assessment attached ~~Yes~~ / No

12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required ~~Yes~~ / No

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment attached ~~Yes~~ / No

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Final Accounts working papers	Finance Department, Futures Park, Room 222