

## **AUDIT COMMISSION - GOVERNANCE REPORT**

Corporate Director (Resources)

### **1 Purpose**

- 1.1 To provide the opportunity for the Audit Committee to discuss the Audit Commission Report to those charged with Governance.

### **2 Recommendations/for decision**

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| 2.1 The Committee is asked to discuss and note the contents of the Report. |
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### **3 Supporting information**

- 3.1 The Council is required to receive the External Auditor's Report to those charged with Governance at a formal Committee meeting.
- 3.2 A draft copy of this report was presented to the Audit Committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2008. At that time the Audit Commission were still working on the 2007/08 audit.
- 3.3 A further draft report was circulated to the Committee in advance of the November meeting.
- 3.4 The Accounts Memorandum and the Annual Governance Report have been amalgamated into one document. This forms the final version of the Annual Governance Report, which is attached at Appendix A. It is noted that this version includes an unqualified opinion on the Council's accounts.
- 3.5 Please note that, due to the timing of the External Audit work at the date required for submission of these papers to the Committee, Officers of the Council have not yet had an opportunity to see the final version of the Annual Governance Report or respond to the proposed Action Plan. A full Action Plan including agreed responses to any recommendations made will be circulated to the Audit Committee at its next meeting.

### **4 Options considered**

- 4.1 None.

### **5 Reasons for Recommendation**

- 5.1 This report is an integral part of the independent external audit process and requires formal reporting and consideration by a Committee of the Council.

### **6 Resource implications**

- 6.1 None

### **7 Response to Key Aims and Objectives**

- 7.1 The External Audit review process underpins the Council's own performance management framework which is designed to ensure optimum delivery of the key aims and outcomes in the Corporate Plan.

Contact Officer  
Background Documents

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Governance Reports to Audit Committee on 16.9.08 and 5.11.08