

## **UPDATE ON PROGRESS WITH THE USE OF RESOURCES ACTION PLAN**

**Report By: Audit Services Manager**

### **Wards Affected**

County Wide.

### **Purpose**

To receive an update on the Use of Resources Action Plan (Appendix 1 refers).

### **Financial Implications**

None.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the report be noted.**

### **Reasons**

The Use of Resources judgement assesses how well the Council manages and uses its financial resources. The assessment focuses on the importance of having sound and strategic financial management to ensure that resources are available to support the council's priorities and improve services. The five themes covers:

- financial reporting;
- financial management;
- financial standing;
- internal control; and
- value for money.

The Use of Resources assessment reflects the requirement for continuous improvement and helps to establish clear minimum requirements that will provide the foundation for reducing regulation in the future.

The Councils target is to achieve a level 4 by no later than 2009-10.

## Considerations

1. The Audit and Corporate Governance Committee considered the Audit Commission's Use of Resources report for 2006 in January 2007. The key areas requiring action were discussed.
2. A detailed action plan was presented to the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2007. The action plan was developed with relevant officers and highlighted the specific actions to be taken and the timescales.
3. This report updates the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee on progress.
4. The Audit Services Manager will continue to act as Project Manager and report progress to the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee on a regular basis.
5. Preparations for the 2007 Use of Resources judgement have been made. The Council's self-assessment was prepared and delivered to the external auditor on time (31<sup>st</sup> August 2007). The external auditor will be carrying out his review during the course of the next few weeks. Some interviews have already been held.

## Risk Management

5. The Council now has in place a Statement of Internal Control Assurance Framework that has been approved by the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee. Part of the process involves actions that arise from the Council's Annual Audit and Inspection letter and associated reports. Lack of action on the Council's part could have an adverse effect on the Council's Use of Resources score.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

Use of Resources Auditor Judgement 2006.