

USE OF RESOURCES ACTION PLAN

Report By: Audit Services Manager

Wards Affected

County wide.

Purpose

To present the detailed Use of Resources Action Plan (Appendix 1 refers).

Financial Implications

None Identified

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. At the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee on 19th January 2007 the Director of Resources presented the report Audit Commission Use of Resources Report, which outlined the key areas requiring action.

2. This report and the action plan attached which has been developed jointly with relevant officers highlights the specific actions to be taken and the timescales.
3. The Audit Services Manager will act as Project Manager and will report progress to the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee.
4. In addition to the work on the action plan, other areas of Key Lines of Enquiry are being kept under review to ensure that the gains previously made are not lost.

Risk Management

5. The Council now has in place a Statement of Internal Control Assurance Framework, which was approved by the Audit 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 at the next assessment

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Use of Resources Auditor Judgement