

AUDIT STRATEGY 2008/09**Report By: Chief Internal Auditor****Wards Affected**

County-wide.

Purpose

1. To present the 2008/09 Audit Strategy for approval by the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee.

Financial Implications

2. None identified.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT: Subject to any comments from the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee, the Audit Strategy for 2008/09 be approved.

Reasons

3. Adoption of an Audit Strategy represents best practice as required by the CIPFA Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government (2006) and is an integral part of the Council's internal control arrangements under the key lines of enquiry for Use of Resources 2008 assessments.

Considerations

4. The Audit Strategy is a high level statement of how Audit Services will be delivered and developed in accordance with the previously agreed terms of reference.
5. It is normal practice for the Audit Strategy to be reviewed annually by the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee.
6. The Strategy for 2007/08 was reviewed and adopted in April 2007.
7. The 2008/09 Audit Strategy (Appendix 1 refers) covers:
 - (a) Audit Services objectives and outcomes.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
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- (b) Resilience of the Audit Opinion.
- (c) Identification of significant issues and risks.
- (d) Provision of the service.
- (e) Resources and skills.
- (f) Internal Control Audit Opinion Matrix.

Risk Management

- 8. If the Audit Strategy is not reviewed and adopted there is the risk of non-compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government (2006). There would be an adverse impact on the Council's Use of Resources score.

Appendices

- 9. Appendix 1 – 2008/09 Audit Strategy.
Appendix 2 – Audit Charter.

Background Papers

The Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government in the United Kingdom (2006).