

REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Meetings Held on 29 February and 4 April 2008

Membership:

Councillors: **A.C.R. Chappell (Chairman), M.J. Fishley, J.H.R. Goodwin, B. Hunt, R. Mills, R.H. Smith and A.M. Toon.**

USE OF RESOURCES REPORT 2008

1. The Committee has considered the Audit Commission's report on the Council's use of resources during 2006/07. Subject to observations made by the Committee, the opportunities identified in the report together with the Corporate Managements Board's progress report and action plan were recommended to Cabinet for approval. The Committee also agreed to review the Council's asset register and policies.

ANNUAL AUDIT AND INSPECTION LETTER 2008

2. The Committee has considered the Audit Commission's Annual Audit and Inspection letter which has examined the Council's overall current performance and had allocated an overall Star Rating of 2, indicating that it was "improving adequately". The Committee noted the points made in the letter and approved the action plan and the Chief Executive's response. The Committee asked for the following matters to be reported to future meetings:
 - (i) the Audit Commission's report in respect of the developing public service trust, and the Chief Executive's response, be forwarded to the Committee for information.
 - (ii) following the completion of the Council's Business Continuity Plan, the Plan be considered by the Committee.
 - (iii) The "bring forward" system for actions required by the Audit Commission and the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee be considered by the Committee in June.

UPDATED INTERIM ASSURANCE REPORT 2007/08

3. The Committee has considered and noted two reports updating Members in relation to Interim Assurance for 2007/08.

FINANCIAL PROCEDURE RULES AND CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES

4. The Committee has considered a report on proposed revisions to the Constitution in line with a Council resolution made on 2nd November 2007. The Committee approved the proposed amendments and put forward additional amendments. The Committee noted that the proposed revisions would be considered by the Standards Committee prior to consideration by the Constitution Review Working Group and then by Council.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2007/08 UPDATED REPORT

5. The Committee has considered a report on the requirement for the Council to have an Annual Governance Statement, evidenced by an assurance framework. The Committee has made amendments to the draft Statement and framework which has been reported to Cabinet.

TRAINING FOR MEMBERS

- 6 The Committee has approved a training programme for Members which will provide Members with the necessary skills to review the Council's financial governance arrangements.

DATA QUALITY REPORT

7. Members have approved a response to a data quality report from the Audit Commission on the basis of a working document with scope for improvement. The working document will also take into account suggestions made by Members at the meeting.

AUDIT STRATEGY 2008/09

8. The Committee has approved the Audit Strategy for 2008/09.

AUDIT COMMISSION REPORTS

9. Members have approved a framework to manage the process of receipt and action follow up on all Audit Commission reports received by the Council.

AUDIT PLAN 2008/09

10. The Committee has approved the Audit Plan for 2008/09 and the process used to develop the Annual Plan. Members noted that the Plan was in line with the Audit Strategy.

OFFICER AND CONTRACTOR ICT EXPENSES

11. The Committee has considered and noted exempt reports regarding officer and contractor ICT expenses.

A.C.R. CHAPPELL
CHAIRMAN
AUDIT AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Agenda papers of the meetings of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee held on 29th February 2008 and 4th April 2008.