

AUDIT PANEL		
Report Title	PRE-AUDIT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2008/09	
Key Decision	YES	Item No. 3
Ward	ALL	
Contributors	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR RESOURCES	
Class	Part 1	Date: 23 JUNE 2009

1 SUMMARY & PURPOSE

- 1.1 To receive a presentation from the Executive Director for Resources on the pre-audit Statement of Accounts 2008/09.
- 1.2 To review the pre-audit Statement of Accounts 2008/09 including the Annual Governance Statement.
- 1.3 To recommend the Council approves the pre-audit Statement of Accounts 2008/09

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 To ensure that the Council complies with its statutory duty to approve the Accounts prior to the 30 June 2009 it is necessary for this Panel to consider the Accounts.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To recommend the Council approves the pre-audit Statement of Accounts 2008/09 and following approval by Council on 24 June 2009 the Accounts are passed to the Council's external auditors, the Audit Commission, for audit.

4 PRESENTATION

- 4.1 There have been a number of technical changes to this years Accounts compared to the previous year. A summary of these changes will be explained in a presentation at the meeting.
- 4.2 An analysis of the main variances compared to the previous year will be highlighted and reviewed.
- 4.3 A hard copy of the presentation slides will be available at the meeting.

5 THE PRE-AUDIT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2008/09

- 5.1 Currently the pre-audit Statement of Accounts is still in preparation. Therefore, it is planned that the Statement of Accounts booklet will be sent out to all members of the Panel on 18 June 2009. As the Accounts have to be approved by Council the Accounts will also be sent to all Council members.

- 5.2 It is a new requirement that the Pension Fund Accounts be considered by those officers charged with governance of the Pension Fund. It therefore should be noted that the pre-audit Pension Fund Accounts will be considered by the Pensions Investment Committee on 16 June 2009.

6 THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (AGS)

- 6.1 The requirement to produce an AGS was introduced in 2008, as a result of the CIPFA framework document – Delivering Good Governance in Local Government. The AGS replaced the Statement on Internal Control and extends beyond financial probity to include all aspects of the conduct of the Council's business. It also forms part of the Use of Resources framework in the Comprehensive Area Assessment. The AGS will be included in the Statement of Accounts along with the AGS Action Plan that will be included in an Appendix.
- 6.2 A detailed audit of compliance took place in preparation for the 2007/08 AGS. Any gaps identified were included in an action plan which has been monitored throughout the year by the Internal Control Board. Another audit exercise has taken place this year to refresh and update the evidence base. As a result of the in-year review and the audit, 14 of the 20 original actions have been closed. To the remaining six actions a further seven have been added. These are derived from the Audit Commission's Annual Letter, the Head of Audit and Risk's Annual Assurance Statement on Internal Control, and from CIPFA's requirements for the monitoring of the AGS Action Plan.
- 6.3 There will be a separate briefing on the AGS from the Head of Audit & Risk and an evidence schedule will be available at the meeting.

Background Papers

None reported