

Meeting: **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Portfolio Area: Resources

Date: **21 March 2007**

AUDIT COMMISSION FINAL ACCOUNTS MEMO 2005/06

NON-KEY DECISION

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1 PURPOSE

To present the Audit Commission 2005/06 Final Accounts Memo to the Audit Committee for consideration.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members note the details of the Audit Commission 2005/06 Final Accounts Memo and the response from Officers of the Council.

3 BACKGROUND

The Council produced its 2005/06 Statement of Accounts by the Statutory date of 30th June 2006. The Audit Committee received a verbal briefing regarding the 2005/06 Statement of Accounts at its meeting on 30th May 2006 and the Accounts were approved by the Statement of Accounts Committee on 29th June 2006. Between July and September 2006 the Accounts were subject to audit by the Audit Commission. The Audit Commission reported to the Audit Committee in September 2006 and in November 2006 produced its Annual Governance Report, which gave an unqualified opinion on the Council's 2005/06 Accounts. The Audit Commission's more detailed commentary on issues arising during the course of the Audit "the 2005/06 Final Accounts Memo" was due to be issued to the Council in November 2006.

4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION AND OTHER OPTIONS

Attached as an Appendix is the Audit Commission's 2005/06 Final Accounts Memo. The memo includes an Action Plan in which the Audit Commission detail their findings and recommendations with regard to specific issues in respect of the 2005/06 Final Accounts. The Memo is a useful document for the Council. It highlights issues with the 2006/06 Accounts which the Council takes as learning points to seek to ensure improvements to its processes and the overall production of the 2006/07 Accounts. To this end Finance Officers have completed their comments in the Action Points with a constructive approach to seek continuous improvement. Unfortunately the 2005/06 Final Accounts Memo was not issued to the Council until 22nd February 2007. As a result, at the time of preparing this report to the Audit Committee a number of the findings in the Memo were still subject to discussions between Council

Finance Officers and the Audit Commission, as detailed in the completed draft Action Plan attached.

5 IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct implications specific to this report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- The 2005/06 Statement of Accounts
- Audit Commission 2005/06 Governance Report.

APPENDICES

- Appendix - Audit Commission 2005/06 Final Accounts Memo.