

Meeting: AUDIT COMMITTEE

Agenda Item:

Date: 8 June 2009

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2008-09 INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT AND ANNUAL ASSURANCE STATEMENT

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1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for the Audit Committee to receive and consider the 2008/09 Internal Audit Report and Annual Assurance Statement.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The 2008/09 Internal Audit Report and Annual Assurance Statement be noted.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Accounts and Audit (Amended) (England) Regulations 2006 requires that "A relevant body shall maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records and of its systems of internal control in accordance with the proper practices in relation to internal control".
- 3.2 This report summarises the Internal Audit activity in 2008/09 and the Chief Internal Auditor's Assurance Opinion in relation to the Council meeting the requirements of the above Accounts and Audit Regulation.
- 3.3 The Assurance Opinion is also provided for use within the Council's Annual Governance Statement which will be included in the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009.

4 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTIONS AND OTHER OPTIONS

- 4.1 From the Internal Audit work undertaken in 2008/09 it is the Chief Internal Auditor's opinion that he can provide **Moderate** assurance that the system of internal control that has been in place at Stevenage Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2009 accords with proper practice. See Appendix A for detailed report.

5 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Financial Implications

5.1.1 This report contributes to fulfilling the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Amended) (England) Regulations 2006.

5.2 Legal Implications

5.2.1 There are no direct policy implications within the recommendations of this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None

APPENDICES

- Appendix A - 2008/09 Internal Audit Report and Annual Assurance Statement.