

**Audit Committee – 11th February 2010**

**Joint Report of the Chief Executive and the Interim Director of Finance**

**Annual Audit Letter 2009**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To consider the Annual Audit Letter from the external auditors, the Audit Commission.

**Background**

2. The Audit Commission have produced an Annual Audit Letter. Representatives of the Audit Commission will be in attendance at this meeting to present the Letter and to discuss its contents with members.
3. The Letter comments on the Council's organisational assessment under the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA), including the Use of Resources component. The Audit Commission's judgement following this assessment is that the Council performs well. The Letter also summarises the conclusions arising from the Audit Commission's recent audit and other review work.
4. The Letter will be presented to Cabinet on 17th March 2010 and representatives from the Audit Commission will attend and address the Cabinet on key messages, conclusions and significant issue.
5. The Letter has been published, placed on the Council website, and paper copies made available at a charge of £1.00, as agreed in 2000/01.

**Finance**

6. The report deals with a number of financial affairs of the Council. No additional resources are required as a direct consequence of the Letter.

**Law**

7. Legislation appertaining to Local Authority Audit and Accounts is contained in the Local Government Act 1972, part 2 of the Audit Commission Act, 1998, and regulations made thereunder.

**Equality Impact**

8. The proposal takes account of the Council's policy in relation to equal opportunities.

## **Recommendation**

9. It is recommended that the Committee:-

- Note the views of the Auditor.
- Comment on matters in the Annual Audit Letter.



.....  
**John Polychronakis**  
**Chief Executive**

.....  
**Bill Baker**  
**Interim Director of Finance**

Contact Officer: Bill Baker  
Telephone: 01384 814800  
Email: [bill.baker@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:bill.baker@dudley.gov.uk)

## **List of Background Papers**

Annual Audit and Inspection Letter 2009