

Audit Committee – 10th February 2011

Joint Report of the Chief Executive and the Treasurer

Annual Audit Letter 2010

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. At the end of May 2010, the Audit Commission wrote to all Councils to inform them that following the government's announcement, work on the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) would cease with immediate effect and the Commission would no longer issue scores for its use of resources assessments. However, the Audit Commission are still required by the Code of Audit Practice to issue a value for money conclusion. They have therefore used the results of the work completed on the use of resources assessment up to the end of May to inform their 2009/10 conclusion. 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 16th March 2011 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

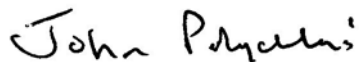
7. Legislation appertaining to Local Authority Audit and Accounts is contained in the Local Government Act 1972, part 2 of the Audit Commission Act, 1998, and regulations made there under.

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.



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John Polychronakis
Chief Executive



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Iain Newman
Treasurer

Contact Officer: Jan Szczechowski
Telephone: 01384 814805
Email: jan.szczechowski@dudley.gov.uk

List of Background Papers

Annual Audit and Inspection Letter 2010