

Meeting of the Council – 13th October, 2008

Report of the Audit Committee

Financial Regulations and Standing Orders

Purpose of the Report

1. This report proposes revised Council Financial Regulations and School Standing Orders for approval by the Council.

Background

2. As part of the regular review of the Council's Corporate Governance arrangements, Internal Audit Services have undertaken a thorough review of the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.
3. No changes are proposed to Council Standing Orders, which were last approved in September 2006, but a number of changes were felt necessary to Financial Regulations, the format of which has also been updated.
4. All Directorates have been consulted about the proposed new Financial Regulations, which were endorsed by the Audit Committee at its meeting on 25th June, 2008 and are now referred to the Council. The Financial Regulations are set out in Appendix 1.
5. School Standing Orders have also been reviewed by Audit Services in consultation with the Director of Children's Services and minor changes, largely to reflect revised Member and officer titles, are also proposed. The revised School Standing Orders, which have been subject to consultation with the Schools Forum, are set out in Appendix 2.
6. It is the intention to review the Schools Financial Regulations and also to produce a School's Financial Procedures Manual.

Finance

7. This report has no direct financial effect.

Law

8. Each local authority is required to have a Constitution pursuant to the Local Government Act 2000, which details the governance arrangements and responsibilities of Members and Officers.

Equality Impact

9. This report does not raise any equality and diversity issues.
10. Children and young people were not consulted on, or involved, with the preparation of this report.

Recommendations

11. It is recommended that the Council approve and adopt the revised Financial Regulations and School Standing Orders.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Taylor', is written in a cursive style.

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Councillor Taylor
Chairman of the Audit Committee