

**Cabinet – 8th February 2006**

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

**Annual Audit and Inspection Letter 2005**

**Purpose of Report**

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

**Background**

2. The Audit Commission have produced a joint Annual Audit and Inspection Letter (which is appended) which incorporates their Annual Audit Letter
3. The Letter summarises the conclusions and significant issues arising from the 2004/05 audit and inspection programme. It comments on the make-up of the Council's CPA score, and on governance and the accounts. It describes the framework of audit and refers to future audit work, and areas where it is anticipated that the Council focus attention.
4. Copies will also be sent to all other Council members.
5. Representatives of the Audit Commission will be in attendance at this meeting to present the Letter and to discuss its contents with members.
6. 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**

7. The report deals with a number of financial affairs of the Council, and concludes that the financial position continues to be well managed. No additional resources are required as a direct consequence of the Letter.

## **Law**

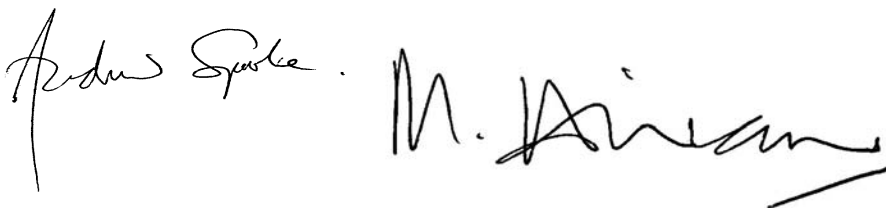
8. Legislation appertaining to Local Authority Audit and Accounts is contained in the Local Government Act 1972, part 2 of the Audit Commission Act, 1998, and regulations made thereunder.

## **Equality Impact**

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

## **Recommendation**

10. It is recommended that the Cabinet:-
  - Note the contents of the Letter.
  - Note the views of the Auditor.



.....  
**Andrew Sparke**  
**Chief Executive**

.....  
**Mike Williams**  
**Director of Finance**

Contact Officer: Mike Williams  
Telephone: 01384 814800  
Email: [mike.s.williams@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:mike.s.williams@dudley.gov.uk)

## **List of Background Papers**

# Annual Audit and Inspection Letter 2005