
Meeting: Audit Committee
Date: 27 July 2009
Subject: Annual Governance Statements for the Legacy Authorities
Report of: Director of Corporate Resources
Summary: The report proposes that the revised 2008/09 Annual Governance Statements are approved for the three legacy authorities

Contact Officer: Nick Murley, Assistant Director of Audit & Risk
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Audit Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. That the Audit Committee approves the 2008/09 Annual Governance Statements for:**
 - (a) South Bedfordshire District Council**
 - (b) Mid Bedfordshire District Council**
 - (c) Bedfordshire County Council**

Background

1. At its meeting on the 29 June 2009, the Audit Committee considered some revisions to the Annual Governance Statements (AGS) for the three legacy authorities made since the end of March when they were prepared and approved by those legacy authorities.
2. To help the committee approve these statements, another report was presented to the committee on the 29 June 2009 that set out all of the internal audit reviews undertaken during 2008/09. This report summarised the main areas of concern together with the number of recommendations that were made. The recommendations were categorised as high, medium or low.
3. The recommendations numbered 368 in total, of which 160 were classified as high. The committee felt that before they could finally approve the AGS for each council, they asked to see all of the high priority recommendations that were made.

4. This information was circulated to the committee members before the meeting for consideration.
5. A final paragraph has been added to the Bedfordshire County Council AGS setting out the risk of any further governance issues that could come to light over the course of the audit.

Conclusion and Next Steps

7. All three AGS need approval before the Statement of Accounts of the legacy authorities can also be approved later on this agenda.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS
<p>Council Priorities: The Annual Governance Statement sets out the internal control and governance framework of how a council operates. It also discloses the significant issues facing an authority. The statement therefore will contribute towards achieving the council's priorities.</p> <p>Financial: None directly arising from this report</p> <p>Legal: None</p> <p>Risk Management: The AGS is another means where the authority can capture the significant risks facing the organisation. These are detailed in the body of the report.</p> <p>Staffing (including Trades Unions): None</p> <p>Equalities/Human Rights: None</p> <p>Community Development/Safety: None</p> <p>Sustainability: None</p>

Appendices:

Appendix A – Revised Annual Governance Statement for Bedfordshire County Council

Background Papers

Report to the Audit Committee on the 29 June 2009 - Annual Governance Statements
for the Legacy Authorities

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands