
Meeting: Audit Committee
Date: 30 October 2009
Subject: Bedfordshire County Council Statement of Accounts 2008/09

Report of: Audit Commission

Summary: This report presents the Audit Commission's Annual Governance Report to the Audit Committee in respect of Bedfordshire County Council, following their validation of the Statement of Accounts 2008/09.

Advising Officer: Clive Heaphy, Director of Corporate Resources
Contact Officer: Matt Bowmer, Assistant Director, Financial Services
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Audit Committee

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The Statements of Accounts of the demised authorities are an essential part of corporate governance and accountability and provide the starting point for the robust financial standing and sound financial management of the new authority, which are essential to the Council delivering its initial corporate objectives and priorities:

- (i) Supporting and caring for an ageing population
- (ii) Educating, protecting and providing opportunities for children and young people
- (iii) Managing growth effectively
- (iv) Creating safer communities
- (v) Promoting healthier lifestyles

Financial:

None

Legal:

None

Risk Management:

None

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None

Equalities/Human Rights:

None

Community Development/Safety:

None

Sustainability:

None

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. that the Audit Commission's Annual Governance Report in respect of Bedfordshire County Council for 2008/09 be considered.
2. that agreement of the final Statement of Accounts in respect of Bedfordshire County Council be delegated to the Chairman of the Audit Committee and Director of Corporate Resources.

Reason for Recommendations: To receive and progress final agreement of the Audit Commission's Annual Governance Report.

1. Annual Governance Report and Statement of Accounts

1. A draft Annual Governance Report was presented to the Audit Committee of 27 July 2009. This report presents the Audit Commission's final Annual Governance Report which is attached as Appendix 1.
2. Members will recall that the meeting of the Audit Committee of 27 July 2009 approved Bedfordshire Council's Statement of Accounts for 2008/09, subject to external audit validation. The Council's external auditor, the Audit Commission, has now substantially completed that work and is anticipating issuing an unqualified audit opinion in early November.

At the time of issue of this agenda, the revised Statement of Accounts was still subject to final review by the Audit Commission, and consequently the Committee is asked to approve the delegation requested in Recommendation 2.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Audit Commission Annual Governance Report - Bedfordshire County Council 2008/09

Background Papers: - None