
Meeting: Audit Committee
Date: 30 October 2009
Subject: South Bedfordshire District Council Annual Governance Report 2008/09
Report of: Audit Commission
Summary: This report presents the Audit Commission's Annual Governance Report to the Audit Committee in respect of South Bedfordshire District 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:

that the Audit Commission's Annual Governance Report in respect of South Bedfordshire District for 2008/09 be considered.

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

1. Annual Governance Report

- 1.1 Members will recall that the meeting of the Audit Committee of 27 July 2009 approved the South Bedfordshire District Council Statement of Accounts for 2008/09 subject to external audit validation. The Council's external auditor, the Audit Commission, has now nearly completed that work and is hoping to issue an audit opinion shortly. This report presents the Audit Commission's Annual Governance Report in respect of the South Bedfordshire District Council Statement of Accounts 2008/09, which is attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.2 At the time of issue of this agenda, the revised Statement of Accounts is still subject to final review by the Audit Commission.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Audit Commission Annual Governance Report - South Bedfordshire District Council 2008/09 – **To follow**

Background Papers:

None