

Luton & South Bedfordshire Joint Committee

23 July 2010

Agenda Item No 13

AUTHOR	Assistant Director - Planning & Development Strategy CBC – Trevor Saunders Senior Financial Advisor CBC – Phil Robinson
SUBJECT	The 2008/09 External Audit Report
PURPOSES	To receive the report and to consider its content.
RECOMMENDATIONS	The Committee notes the report.
REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS	To give effect to the required governance arrangements for the efficient and effective operation of the Joint Committee.

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 As this Committee is constituted as a joint committee, it is required to undergo an external audit under the provisions of the Audit Commission Act 1998. The Audit Commission appointed BDO Stoy Hayward to undertake this work in respect of the 2008/09 financial year. The audit work was concluded in May 2010. It is a requirement that the auditor's report is submitted to the Committee for consideration and therefore it is appended accordingly.

1.2 The accounts for 2008/09 were considered by the Committee on 24 July 2009.

2.0 THE AUDITORS REPORT

2.1 The audit report takes the form of an 'Issues Arising Report', and the one item identified is mentioned below:

2.2 The Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Publication Scheme (see page 3 of report).

It is a requirement of Section 20 of the Act for every public body to adopt the model publication scheme referred to in the Act.

The auditors recommend that the Committee adopt the Model Publication Scheme as soon as possible and at least before the end of the current financial year.

However, further clarification from the Information Commissioner on the requirement in relation to Freedom of Information is awaited.

Appendix

Appendix A – External Audit Report